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Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike, You Got A Fight Comin' On"

CAN ANYBODY STOP THIS MAN?

OLYFIELD-BOWE III
e Heavyweight Fight That's Really A Fight

HE CROWNING OF AYNE McCULLOUGH
Trainer's Story *By Eddie Futch*

ESSE JAMES HUGHES
e Mysterious Death Of An Outlaw Boxer

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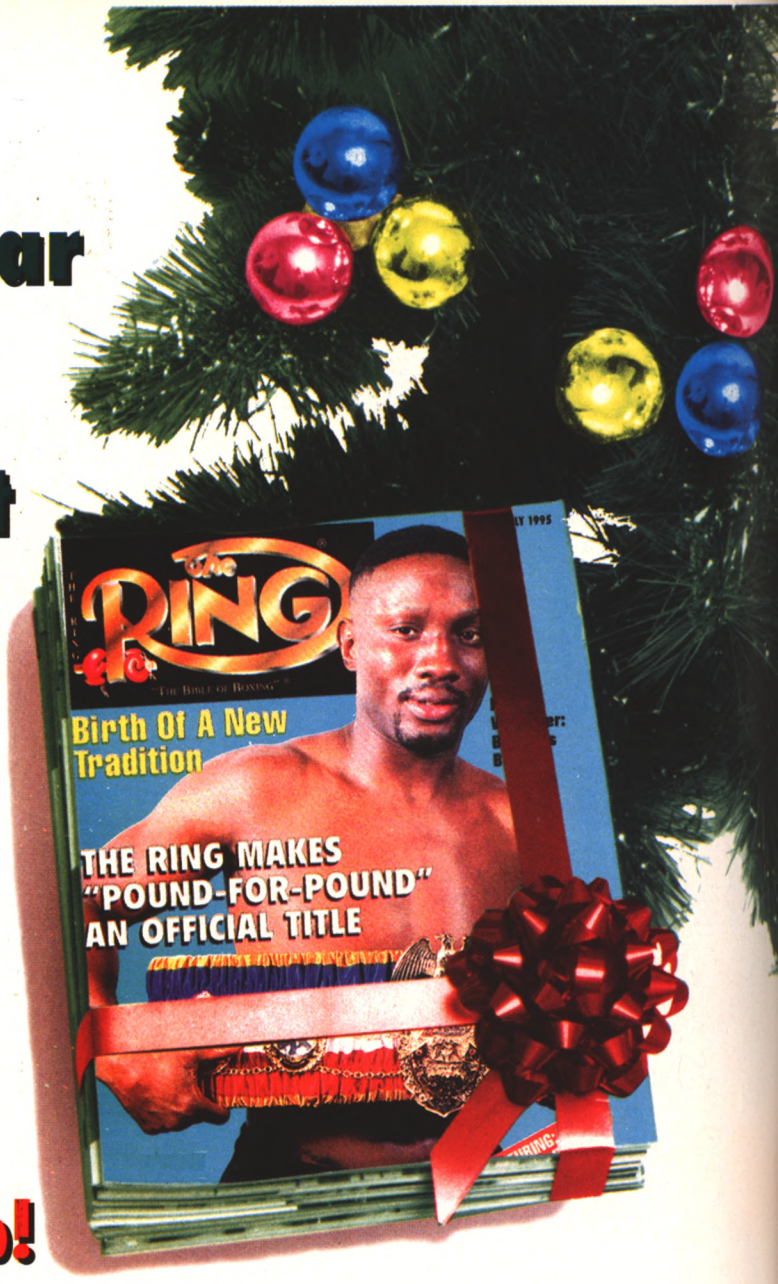

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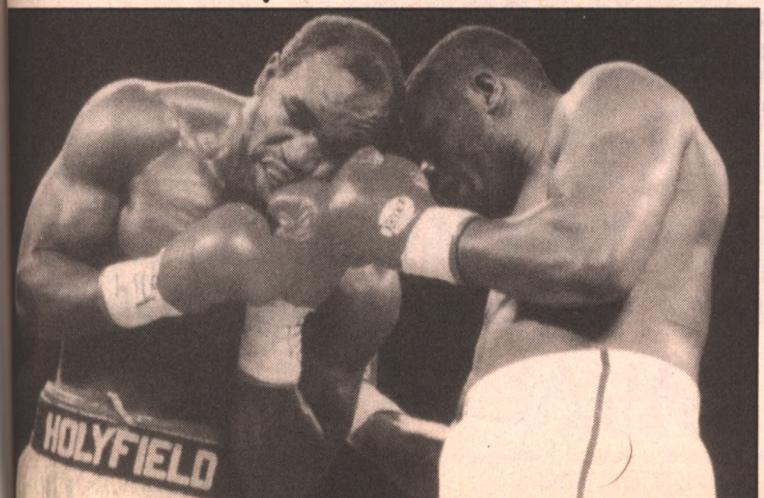

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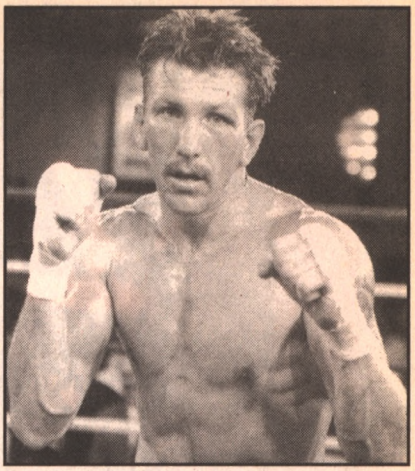

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RINGSIDE

If doctors take the Hippocratic Oath, maybe boxing people should take the Hypocrite's Oath. There was a lot of hypocrisy associated with the return of Mike Tyson. For starters, there was the Nevada State Athletic Commission, which sanctioned an obvious mismatch, then had the nerve to tie up the purse of Peter McNeeley's manager-trainer, Vinny Vecchione, after his desperate dash into the ring resulted in his fighter's disqualification. (Vecchione eventually got paid.) Even if Vecchione's intervention was premeditated (and who can prove it was?), he was looking to protect his fighter, which is more than can be said for Nevada.

Then there are the boxing writers who bill themselves as impartial observers. After the McNeeley blowout, certain declared that Tyson was slow, faded, technically amateurish, and washed up. Such sweeping conclusions from a one-sided 89-second fight!?! I'll be the first to acknowledge that during The Second Coming, Tyson has been frustratingly inaccessible, and his promoter, Don King, has been as full of bull as ever. (Nobody slings it better.) But journalists are supposed to be objective, and I can't help but wonder whether personal agendas and/or vendettas are affecting their vision.

And finally, add to the list the fans who ordered the fight for $40-plus, then screamed about being ripped off because McNeeley crashed in one round. Nobody billed Tyson-McNeeley as a fight. As an event, it was everything it was supposed to be. In other words, Tyson showed up, made a dramatic entrance, and won convincingly. Whether that was worth your pay-per-view dollar was to be determined *before* the night of August 19.

The most standup guy in the whole circus was the one who kept falling down. McNeeley promised to rumble with Tyson, and that's exactly what he did. The fighter with no credibility ended up giving a most credible effort—even if he didn't belong in the ring to begin with.

Is Buster Mathis an acceptable opponent for Tyson's second comeback bout? (As we went to press, Tyson-Mathis was scheduled for the same date, November 4, and in the same city, Las Vegas, as the Riddick Bowe-Evander Holyfield rubber match.) Mathis is several levels above McNeeley, but that might not matter. He seemed impotent in his lone battle against a championship-caliber heavyweight (Riddick Bowe), and his featherfists are more likely to tickle Tyson than tear him apart. That aside, he figures to last longer than McNeeley. Of course, *George Burns* will last longer than McNeeley.

For hard-core fight fans, it's frustrating that Tyson, because of his unique and unmatched appeal, can continue to be pitted against less-than-suitable opposition. Then again, aside from Bowe, Holyfield, Michael Moorer, Tommy Morrison, and Lennox Lewis, who else qualifies as suitable opposition? As an attraction, Tyson belongs to the world. And like it or not, boxing is just a small part of it.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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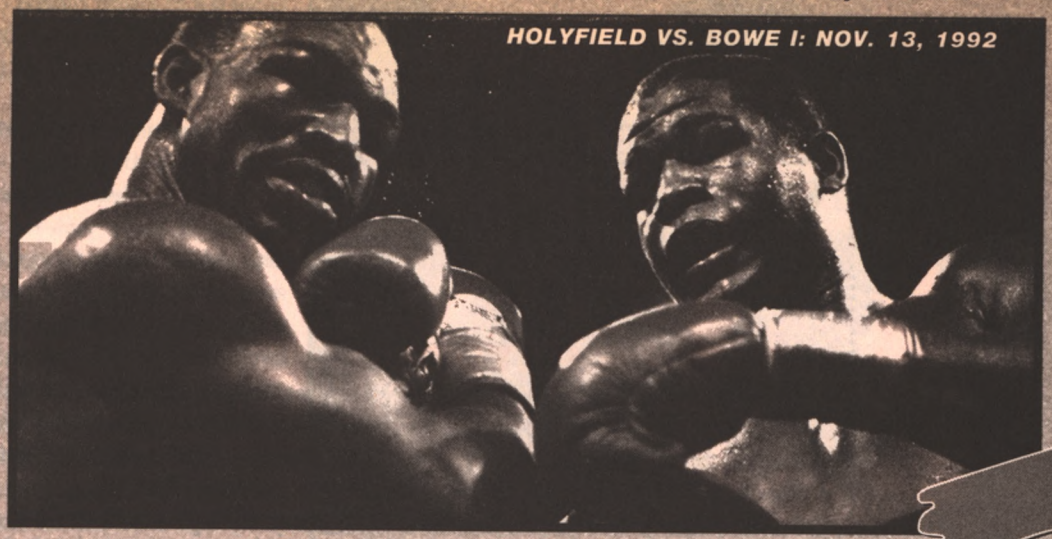

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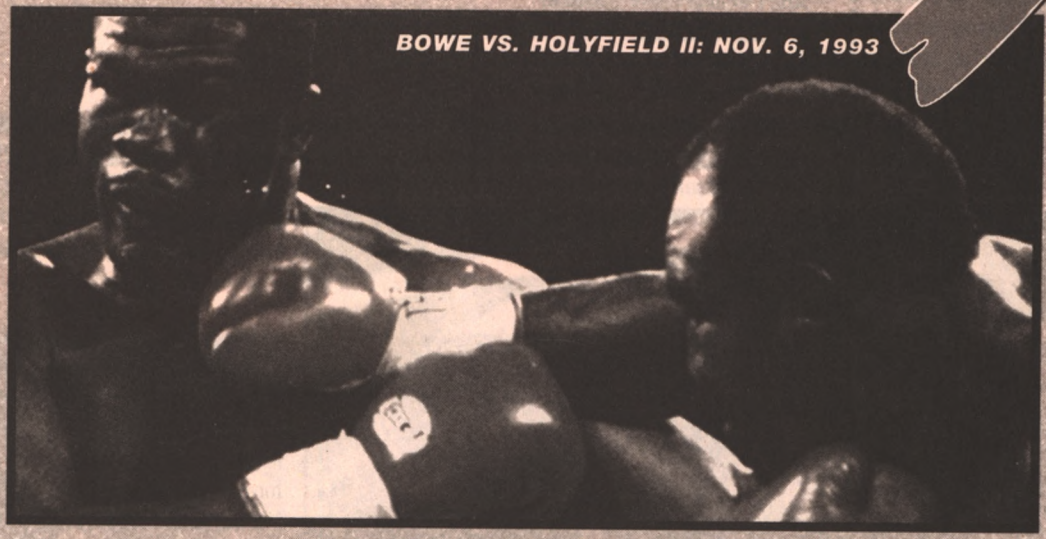

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FIGHTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

COME OUT WRITING

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TYSON'S RETURN

The time to have stopped the Tyson-McNeeley fight was before it started. The fault lies with the Nevada State Athletic Commission, who allowed the obvious mismatch to go on, something that wouldn't have happened had they done their job of protecting boxers and boxing fans. Tyson and McNeeley lost nothing. Instead, it was the fans that were suckered into paying. The fighters, promoters, cable companies, and advertising agencies went laughing all the way to the bank with your money. My anger is not with the boxers, but with the commission—and the governor who appointed its members. I did not see the fight or spend the money to buy it, as I wasn't going to aid and abet the farce.

MARTY WEILL
Ironton, OH

Editor's Note: Marty Weill is the former manager of Rocky Marciano.

The fact that Don King was able to cash in on such a blatant mismatch as the Tyson-McNeeley "fight" is a testament to his genius. Those naive enough to believe McNeeley would actually provide some competition can't say they weren't warned. In actuality, the circus turned out to be even more of a charade than I expected. Still, I wouldn't have missed it.

DANIEL McKRELL
Parma, OH

If there was any doubt about Mike Tyson not having the killer instinct anymore, I hope that notion is now gone after his destruction of Peter McNeeley. Sure, McNeeley isn't in Tyson's class, but who is?

SHELLEY G. HARRIS
Hackensack, NJ

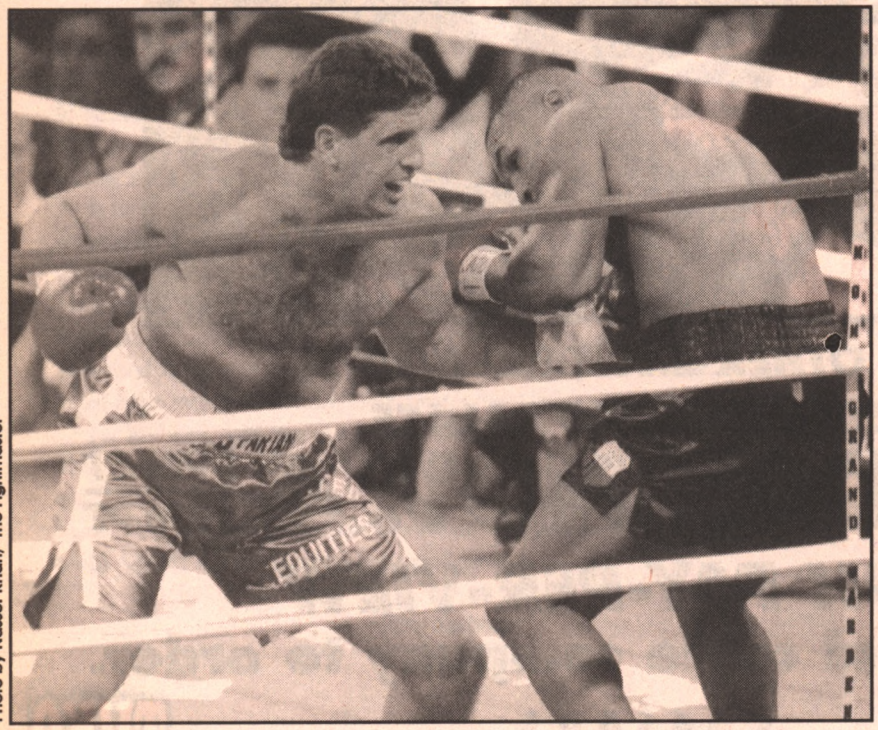


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Peter McNeeley came out firing, as he had promised to do, in his heavily hyped bout with Mike Tyson. He lasted only 89 seconds, falling twice before being rescued by trainer-manager Vinny Vecchione.

POUND-FOR-POUND

I order three boxing magazines a month, and I think THE RING is the greatest. But your pound-for-pound ratings make me sick. There's no way Pernell Whitaker or Roy Jones is better, pound-for-pound, than Julio Cesar Chavez. You guys are just jealous that Chavez is from Mexico and ranks as the best fighter ever. If he was from America, you'd rank him first. As it is, you don't even rank him in the top 10. If Chavez ever again fought Whitaker, "Sweet Pea" would be kayoed in eight rounds. And when Chavez and Frankie Randall fight again, you're going to see the real Chavez.

RAY HANDLEY
Wathena, KS

Ever since I saw Pernell Whitaker in his rematch with Jose Luis Ramirez, I knew he was a very special athlete. As a lightweight, he was quick, unorthodox, and head and shoulders above

the competition. I honestly believe he was one of the best lightweights ever, and he certainly would have given the great Roberto Duran a night of pure hell.

But should Whitaker be considered a better fighter, pound-for-pound, than super middleweight champion Roy Jones?

Although he has done absolutely nothing wrong and has dominated whatever weight class he chooses, Whitaker's one impardonable sin was moving up in weight beyond the point that he was most effective. Even though he easily outpointed then-junior middleweight champion Julio Cesar Vasquez, he took more punishment than usual and was even floored by the crude puncher.

The question, then, is whether Whitaker is a better fighter at welterweight than Jones is at super middleweight. Judging by his recent performances, Whitaker is not as dominant as he was at lightweight. The extra pounds have slowed him somewhat. Jones, on the other hand, is absolutely untouchable at his current weight. He continues to dominate opponents the way Whitaker once did at lightweight.

Moving up is probably the only thing Whitaker could have done to motivate himself and prove his greatness. Nonetheless, you should consider dropping him to number two in your pound-for-pound ratings.

PAUL MINNIS
Olney, IL

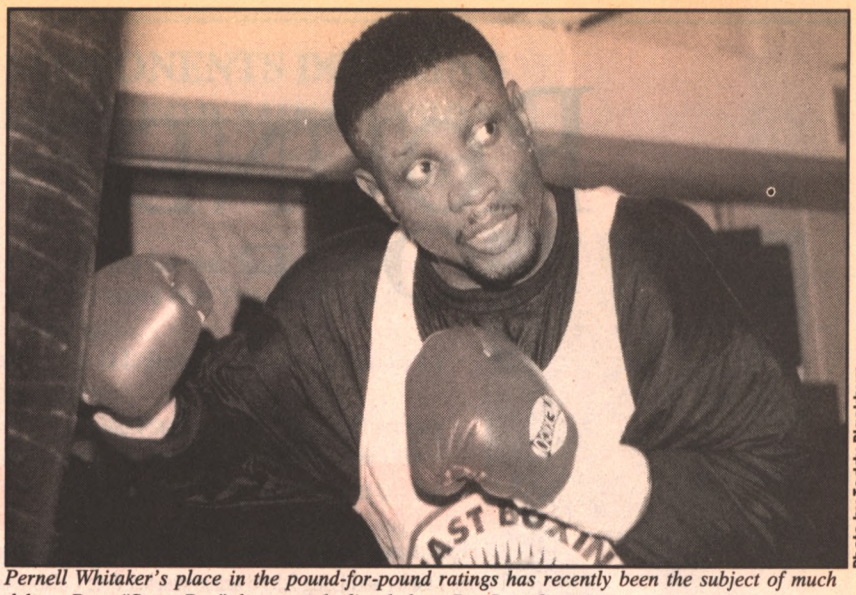


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Pernell Whitaker's place in the pound-for-pound ratings has recently been the subject of much debate. Does "Sweet Pea" deserve to be listed above Roy Jones?

THE BEST MATCHUPS

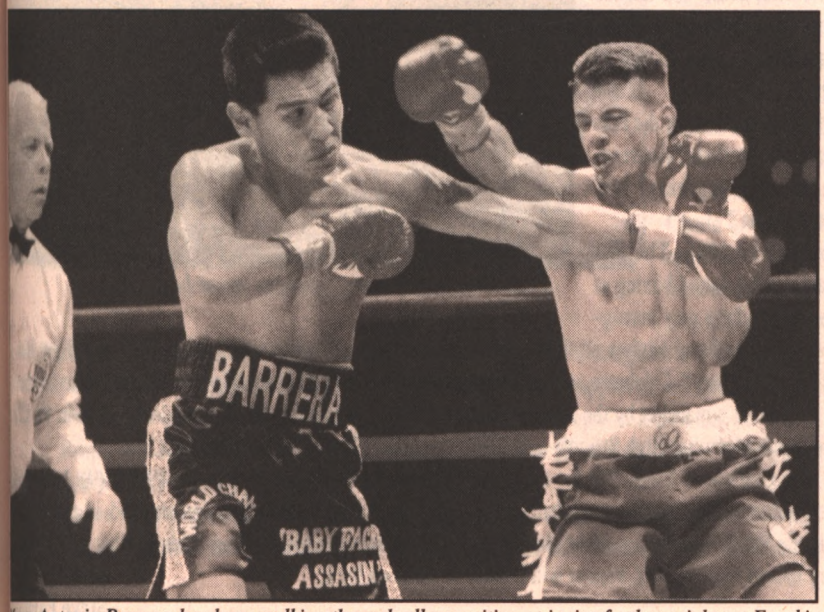
Regarding the feature in your October 1995 issue, "The Fights We'd Like To See: A Division-By-Division Analysis":

At heavyweight, Evander Holyfield was never competition for Mike Tyson. Holyfield needs to fight guys like Michael Moorer, Ray Mercer, and George Foreman, where he can win on skill and stamina. Tyson is a predator. He will close the ring off on Holyfield and destroy him. Furthermore, Buster Douglas should not be a yardstick of comparison for these two. Douglas could never repeat what he did in Japan. He, too, would be destroyed by Tyson in the early rounds. Contrasting styles and size would make Riddick Bowe the predator's only real opponent.

At welterweight, Pernell Whitaker is not a good match for Felix Trinidad. Trinidad is too good a boxer/puncher, and with his height advantage, he would prove too much for Whitaker. The "Pea" is not as sweet as he's made out to be. He's not the best boxer, pound-for-pound, just the craftiest and most guileful. Whitaker would do better to fight Frankie Randall. Their styles would produce one helluva fight.

At lightweight, let's not make the mistake of putting Miguel Angel Gonzalez in the ring with Oscar De La Hoya. Gonzalez will go the same route as Rafael Ruelas, and in even less time. De La Hoya won't be tested until he moves up to meet Trinidad. That will be the fight of the decade.

DAVE MAHON
Miami, FL



Marco Antonio Barrera has been walking through all opposition at junior featherweight, as Frankie Toledo discovered in June. How would he fare against unbeaten British sensation Naseem Hamed?

In "The Fights We'd Like To See," you previewed a matchup between junior featherweights Marco Antonio Barrera and Naseem Hamed. This is a fantastic matchup, with Barrera and Hamed clearly the class of the 122-pound division. Only one problem: You picked the wrong winner. Believe me, if these two ever fought, Barrera would chase Hamed out of the ring. The Mexican regularly walks through all opposition, and Hamed would instantly be reduced to a runner.

If Hamed is smart, he'll jump to featherweight before a match with Barrera is made. Hamed is going to fight Steve Robinson at 126 pounds. Good move. He'll defeat Robinson, who is ordinary, and in the process save himself from the slashing fists of the best young fighter in boxing, Marco Antonio Barrera.

JORGE COLON
Bronx, NY ■

ROUND ONE

STUDENT AND TEACHER, 19 YEARS LATER

Fighters and managers have discovered each other in a variety of ways, but the story of super middleweight Tyrone Frazier and Long Island schoolteacher Pete Calabrese is the stuff of screenplays.

In 1976, Frazier was a freshman at Wyandanch Memorial High School in Suffolk County. His social studies teacher was Calabrese, and while their mutual interest in boxing created an instant friendship, they didn't see much of one another. On most school days, you see, Frazier elected to extend his lunch period by skipping Calabrese's class. As a result, he received a failing grade.

"I was kind of like the class clown," explained Frazier, whose real name is Tyrone Mitchell. "One day there was supposed to be a test I hadn't studied for, so I stuck a paper clip in the lock of Pete's classroom door. When nobody could open the door, they canceled the test."

Somehow, Frazier was allowed to advance to his sophomore year, but in 1980, only weeks before he was to graduate from high school, the senior guidance counselor spotted his transcripts. The result: While his friends were receiving their diplomas, Frazier was preparing for a session of summer school.

"And when he walks in on the first day of classes," recalled Calabrese, "who does he see is teaching? Me. This time, he did fine."

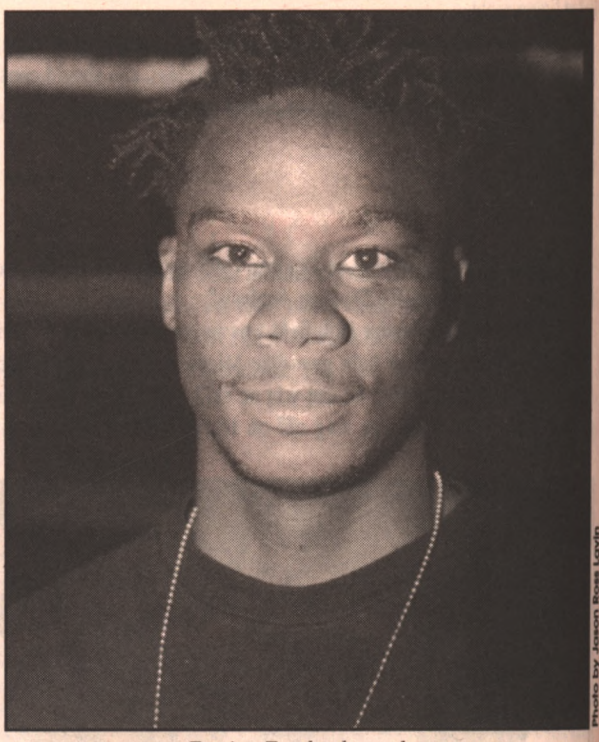


Photo by Jason Rose Lavin

Frazier: Teacher knows best

Fast-forward to 1995. The 32-year-old Frazier, who started boxing at age 24, was looking for a new manager. "I had been his unofficial adviser all those years," Calabrese said, "and when he asked if I could get him a fight, I said I'd give it a try." Calabrese, a former sportscaster for *News 12 Long Island* and a part-time freelance writer, was licensed as a manager by the New York State Athletic Commission in August 1994. He's in his 22nd year at Wyandanch Memorial High School—and his first year as Tyrone Frazier's manager.

Frazier, who challenged Virgil Hill for the WBA light heavyweight title in 1990, is 19-7-4 (9). In his first fight under Calabrese, the former contender, who is now based in Atlantic City, was stopped in the seventh round by Charlie Smith. Calabrese couldn't help but give his former student a failing grade for that performance. But if history indeed repeats itself, Frazier will be sure to make up for it.

–Steve Farhood

THE 10 OPPONENTS DON KING CONSIDERED FOR MIKE TYSON'S SECOND COMEBACK FIGHT

10. Don King: Seems a natural since he's been promoting himself for years. The ultimate double dip.

9. Barney: Neat promotion. Tyson's first dinosaur opponent—unless you count Larry Holmes.

8. Venus de Milo: Strictly a no-handed fighter, but Team Tyson concerned with potential charges of statutory rape.

7. Dan Marino: Negotiations fell apart when DK demanded options, and quarterback insisted he was strictly a pocket passer.

6. Jose Sulaiman: No problem securing a top-10 ranking.

5. Greg Garrison: This time, with Vincent Fuller barred from Tyson's corner, it'll be a fair fight.

4. O.J. Simpson: Word's out that he's a bleeder.

3. Joe Frazier: Smokin' Joe still seeking revenge for what happened to Marvis in 1986.

2. Vinny Vecchione: King worried Double-V will draw automatic DQ by climbing *out of* ring.

1. Michael Jackson: If Tyson drives "The Gloved One's" nose bone into his brain, he'll write it off as cosmetic surgery.

O.J.: Prone to cuts?

A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Photo by Jay Lash

From left: Yamil Chade and Felix Trinidad Jr. and Sr.

Mike Tyson may be back in the fold, but it appears promoter Don King is losing Puerto Rico's Felix Trinidad, the IBF welterweight champion and one of the best fighters, pound-for-pound, in the world.

Discussions between King, Trinidad, and the fighter's father and trainer, Felix Trinidad Sr., reached the breaking point in August, when the champion declared his independence. He has aligned himself with Pensacola, Florida, attorney Fred Levin, who advises IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones.

"We have contacted the services of Levin to handle the legal aspects of our break from King, as well as from manager Yamil Chade," Trinidad Sr. told THE RING.

Trinidad indicated his longstanding differences with King and Chade are related to agreements made without the fighter's approval. "We have been accused of signing documents with accords that we have no knowledge of," he said. "I am a humble man of my word, but will not permit anyone to take me for a fool."

Having reached the third fight of a three-bout deal, Trinidad is obligated to defend against mandatory contender Larry Barnes. His father said the promotional deal with King was signed without his son's approval, and that he wanted the Barnes fight to go to purse bids.

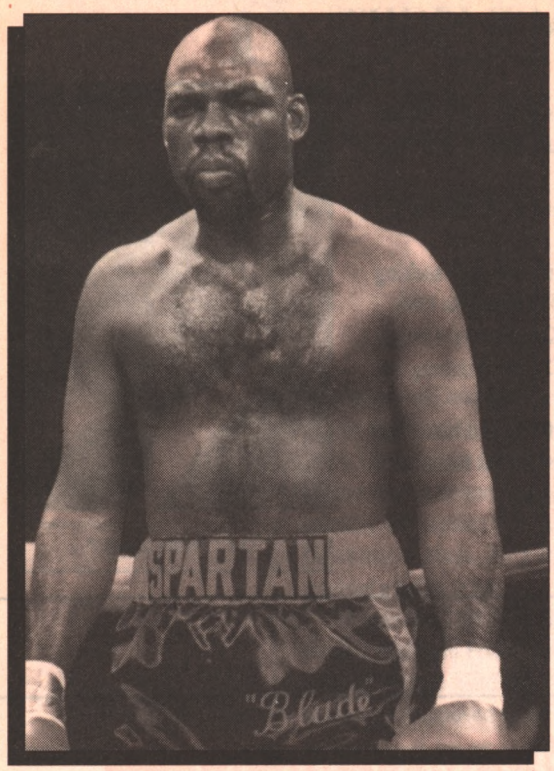
"We didn't want packages, we wanted no additional fight tie-ups," said Trinidad Sr.

Responded King, "If they want out, it's going to cost them $5-million to cover my investment. Building up a fighter costs money, and the Trinidads have been very unfair with Chade."

As we went to press, the IBF conducted a purse bid on Trinidad's mandatory defense against Barnes. The bid was won by Square Ring Inc., Levin's promotional company, for $1,009,000. Levin, in turn, handed over promotional rights to Main Events. The fight is scheduled for November 18.

–Mario Rivera Martino

FROM $250 TO $25-MILLION



Barkley: Not exactly a Tysonesque purse

One night before Mike Tyson's record $25-million date with Peter McNeeley, a pair of former world champions were involved in an incredible financial reverse at the Aladdin hotel-casino.

Las Vegas promoter Al Rodriguez already had a seven-bout program in place when manager Grant Elvis Phillips pushed to get two of his fighters, former triple-crown champion Iran Barkley and comebacking former light heavyweight titlist Leslie Stewart, on the card.

"There was no way I could handle that," said Rodriguez, who usually operates at the Silver Nugget, where main-eventers make a maximum of $1,000. "The card was complete with a budget. When I explained it to Elvis, he said Barkley and Stewart wanted to fight so bad right now, they'd do it for $250 each and two round-trip airfares! Both fighters still have some name value, and I couldn't say no, so I made it a nine-bout card."

Fighting for the first time in 14 months, Stewart had a relatively easy night, knocking out Ken McCurdy in the third round. But Barkley, once good enough to twice defeat Thomas Hearns, engaged in a bloody eight-round war with Rocky Gannon and dropped a majority decision.

"I wanted to fight when all the boxing people of the world were in Vegas," explained "The Blade."

"Sure I'll bring these guys back, probably in 60 days," said a pleased Rodriguez. "But Barkley and Stewart will cost me a helluva lot more."

–Jack Welsh

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

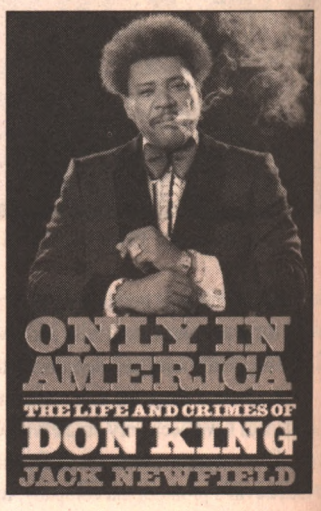
Investigative journalists and boxing promoters have more in common than you might think. In penning *Only In America: The Life And Crimes Of Don King* (William Morrow & Co. Inc., $23), award-winning author and newspaper columnist Jack Newfield relied on the same qualities—instinct, dogged determination, an old-fashioned work ethic—that have enabled King to advance from numbers runner and street hustler to millionaire dealmaker extraordinaire.

If nothing else, *Only In America* is thorough, comprehensive, and flawlessly researched, with the twists and turns of King's amazing 23-year promotional career often giving it the feel of a novel. Examined in depth are King's first promotion (a benefit for a failing hospital in Cleveland), The Thrilla In Manila and The Rumble In The Jungle, his scandal-ridden U.S. championship tournament, his multidimensional relationship with Larry Holmes, his trial for tax evasion (and his upcoming trial for wire fraud), and his courtship and control of Mike Tyson.

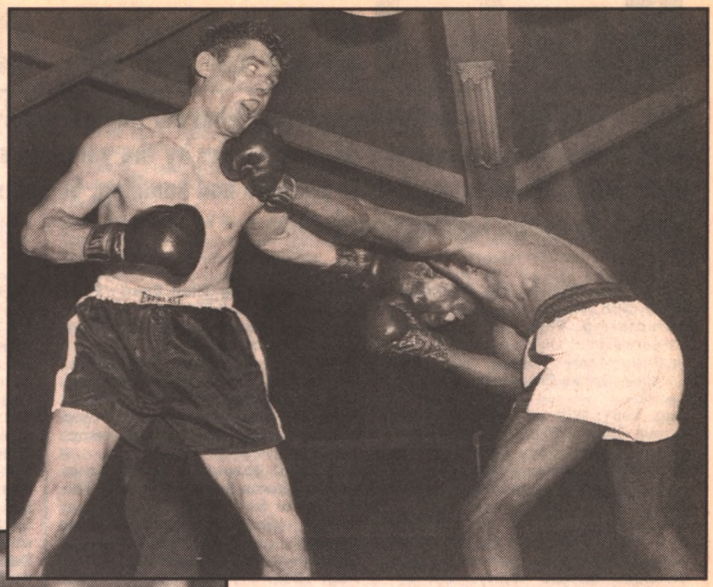
Newfield repeatedly credits King for his genius, but having studied his subject from the perspective of King-promoted fighters like Jeff Merritt, Holmes, Michael Dokes, Muhammad Ali, and Tim Witherspoon, he concludes that the promoter craves not only making lucrative fights, but ripping off big-name fighters, too. And for that, there can be no forgiveness.

Only In America is a must-read. It is an important book for what it tells us about King, about boxing, and, ultimately, about human nature.

–Steve Farhood



Former Commonwealth cruiserweight champion **Chisanda Mutti**, 38, died after a short illness. Mutti, who hailed from Zambia, lost in world title fights to **Lee Roy Murphy** and **Rickey Parkey**. In 1986, he was kayoed in three rounds by **Evander Holyfield** ... Former middleweight contender **Walter Cartier** died in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. He was 73. Cartier fought, among others, **Randy Turpin**, **Kid Gavilan**, **Joey Giardello**, and **Bobo Olson**. He retired in 1954 with a record of 44-12-2 (24), then pursued an acting career ... Those comebacks just keep on coming. The latest names: former heavyweight contender **Joe Bugner**, a 45-year-old grandfather who hasn't fought in eight years, and former two-division champion **Donald Curry**, who's reportedly in the gym.



Walter Cartier (left) outpoints Randy Sandy in 1954

Bugner's making a comeback

THE PUNCHLINE

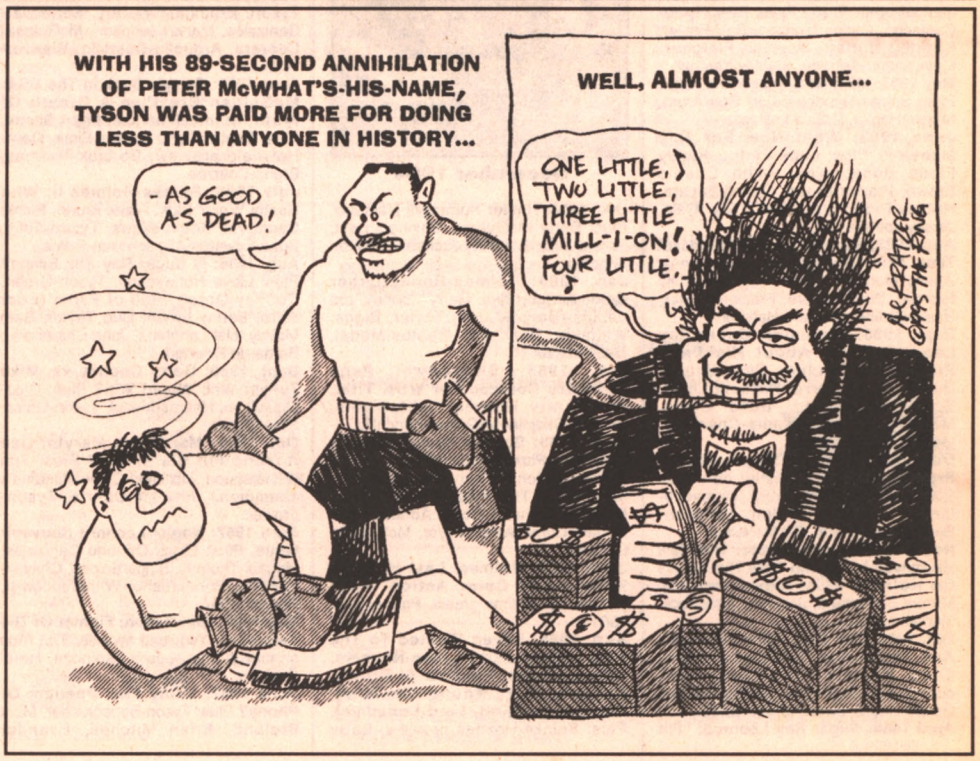
"Mike, who are you gonna fight in your first comeback bout?"

–Question asked by unnamed reporter at the press conference *following* Tyson's first-round DQ over Peter McNeeley. The question went unacknowledged.

"I am saying that it would be a great spectacle, good for boxing, for Mike Tyson to fight against two rivals in one night."

–WBC Executive Secretary Eduardo Lamazon

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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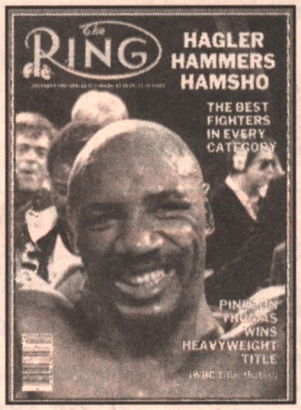

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	☐ Dec/84	☐ Oct/86	☐ Nov/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Feb/94
☐ Aug/81	**All 7 $28**	**All 10 $37**	**All 10 $37**	☐ Jul/91	☐ Mar/94
☐ Oct/81				☐ Aug/91	☐ Apr/94
	☐ Jan/85	☐ Apr/87	☐ Jan/89	☐ Oct/91	☐ May/94
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	☐ Mar/86	☐ Apr/88	☐ Sep/90	☐ Jun/93	☐ Mar/95
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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended September 1, 1995

Mike Tyson
Heavyweight

Paul Vaden
Junior Middleweight

Oba Carr
Welterweight

Fred Pendleton
Junior Welterweight

Kevin Kelley
Featherweight

Michael Carbajal
Junior Flyweight

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Fort Washington, MD *37-1*
2. **OLIVER McCALL**
   Chicago, IL *26-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Atlanta, GA *32-2*
4. **MIKE TYSON**
   Southington, OH *42-1*
5. **GEORGE FOREMAN**
   Houston, TX *74-4*
6. **MICHAEL MOORER**
   Detroit, MI *36-1*
7. **LENNOX LEWIS**
   England *27-1*
8. **BRUCE SELDON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *33-3 (WBA Champ)*
9. **TOMMY MORRISON**
   Jay, OK *45-2-1*
10. **ALEXANDR ZOLKIN**
    Westerville, OH *23-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY *27-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA *25-4 (WBA Champ)*
3. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON**
   Lexington, KY *24-3-2*
4. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV**
   Brooklyn, NY *22-0*
6. **TORSTEN MAY**
   Germany *10-0*
7. **PATRICE AOUSSI**
   France *15-0*
8. **KENNY KEENE**
   Emmett, ID *32-1*
9. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina *17-1-1 (WBC Interim Champ)*
10. **ROBERT DANIELS**
    Miami, FL *27-3-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France *32-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL *16-0*
5. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI *47-2-2*
6. **MERQUI SOSA**
   New York, NY *25-4-2*
7. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY *48-3-1*
8. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany *28-0*
9. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
   Germany *37-2-1*
10. **MICHAEL NUNN**
    Davenport, IA *46-3*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *29-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN**
   England *41-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **STEVE COLLINS**
   Ireland *29-3*
4. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA *27-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England *43-1-2*
6. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI *26-1*
7. **VINNY PAZIENZA**
   Cranston, RI *40-6*
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ *37-6-1*
9. **BRYANT BRANNON**
   Trenton, NJ *15-0*
10. **SUGARBOY MALINGA**
    South Africa *40-9*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **QUINCY TAYLOR**
   Dallas, TX *26-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JORGE CASTRO**
   Argentina *97-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *27-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
   Seattle, WA *33-1*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *35-4-1*
6. **JOE LIPSEY**
   Lansing, MI *25-0*
7. **DANA ROSENBLATT**
   Malden, MA *25-0*
8. **LONNIE BRADLEY**
   New York, NY *22-0*
9. **JULIAN JACKSON**
   Virgin Islands *51-4*
10. **RICHIE WOODHALL**
    England *19-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *39-6 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PAUL VADEN**
   San Diego, CA *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *54-2*
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY *67-4-1*
5. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO *34-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY *25-5-1*
7. **VINCENT PETTWAY**
   Baltimore, MD *38-5-1*
8. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *60-1*
9. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *26-1*
10. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
    France *29-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *30-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *35-1*
5. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland *31-1*
6. **DERRELL COLEY**
   Capitol Heights, MD *27-1-2*
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *21-0-1*
8. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *31-1*
9. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN**
   Ireland *24-1-1*
10. **HECTOR CAMACHO**
    Orlando, FL *54-3*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH *52-3-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *15-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *94-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **FRED PENDLETON**
   Miami, FL *39-20-4*
5. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina *69-3-2*
6. **DAVID KAMAU**
   Los Angeles, CA *26-0*
7. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY *27-3-2*
8. **SAMMY FUENTES**
   Hermosa Beach, CA *31-13-1*
9. **JAN BERGMAN**
   South Africa *27-0*
10. **KHALID RAHILOU**
    France *24-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *18-0*
2. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *38-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *21-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *43-2*
5. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *16-0*
6. **PHILIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
7. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico *37-4*
8. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *18-0*
9. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ *23-1-1*
10. **LAMAR MURPHY**
    Miami, FL *18-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA *41-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *32-0-1*
3. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY *53-3-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX *30-1-2*
5. **REGGIE TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY *38-3-1*
6. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *21-1*
7. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *22-0*
8. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina *55-1-1*
9. **ED HOPSON**
   St. Louis, MO *26-1*
10. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
    Kazakhstan *24-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *37-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI *40-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **STEVE ROBINSON**
   Wales *21-9-1*
4. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela *32-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY *42-1-1*
6. **EVER BELENO**
   Colombia *30-1*
7. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
   Portland, OR *25-5*
8. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *50-6*
9. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *14-3*
10. **CHICO CASTILLO**
    Los Angeles, CA *19-0*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *38-0*
2. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *27-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *19-0*
4. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
   New York, NY *32-2-3 (WBC Champ)*
5. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *28-1-1*
6. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *22-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX *40-2-1*
8. **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
   Mexico *50-7-3*
9. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa *35-2*
10. **ERIK MORALES**
    Mexico *17-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *17-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *17-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM**
   Thailand *55-4-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI**
   Japan *24-3-1*
5. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *35-2*
6. **ANCEE GEDEON**
   Westminster, CA *13-7-1*
7. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *29-1*
8. **AL KOTEY**
   England *20-1*
9. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *10-2-1*
10. **PAULIE AYALA**
    Fort Worth, TX *15-0*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *20-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan *17-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *30-0-2*
4. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico *24-6*
5. **ALIMI GOITIA**
   Venezuela *12-0 (WBA Champ)*
6. **HYUNG CHUL LEE**
   South Korea *19-5*
7. **CECILIO ESPINO**
   Huntington Park, CA *31-3-1*
8. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela *21-2*
9. **RICARDO VARGAS**
   Mexico *20-4-3*
10. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
    Cahokia, IL *11-3*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan *20-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **SAEN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *22-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *25-1*
5. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
   Mexico *29-3-2*
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA *39-5-1*
7. **HIROKI IOKA**
   Japan *29-5*
8. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM**
   Thailand *20-0*
9. **FRANCISCO TEJEDOR**
   Colombia *42-3*
10. **ENRIQUE OROZCO**
    Mexico *28-4-1*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *26-2-1 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *41-3*
3. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *36-2*
4. **HI YONG CHOI**
   South Korea *18-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *44-4-4*
6. **CARLOS MURILLO**
   Panama *28-2*
7. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *28-4-1*
8. **YUICHI HOSONO**
   Japan *22-3-1*
9. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN *14-2*
10. **JESUS CHONG**
    Mexico *28-6*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Super Middleweight
3. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Lightweight
5. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
6. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Junior Welterweight
7. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Flyweight
8. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
9. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Heavyweight
10. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
    Junior Featherweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

PEACE, LOVE, AND CHIN MUSIC

Mike Tyson's comeback fight shouldn't have been staged at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas, but should've instead taken place on Yasgur's farm, with Country Joe McDonald, not Indian Joe Hipp, serving as one of the opening acts. The return of America's most compelling ex-con wasn't so much a boxing event as it was a festival of peace and love. Or it at least seemed that way after listening to Tyson spend his few moments with the media talking about his relationship with Allah, his love of America, and his general good will toward men. During one prefight interview with Larry King, Tyson seemed determined to show us that the only thing he hit during three years out of the game was the prison library. He opened his mouth, and the philosophy just rolled off his Mao Tse tongue.

By the time we got to Hoodstock, we were *more than* half-a-million strong. And everywhere was a song and a celebration. Preliminary pay-per-view numbers indicated more than a million sets tuned in at a cost of something like a week's worth of groceries per home. All 16,736 seats at the MGM Grand were sold out, at an average ticket price of, appropriately, an MGM grand. (Visa Las Vegas!) About 1,500 press credentials were issued. More celebrities left their footprints on the hotel's carpeting than have left them at Mann's Chinese Theater, and it seemed as though the NBA was as well-represented at ringside as the WBA. Impressive.

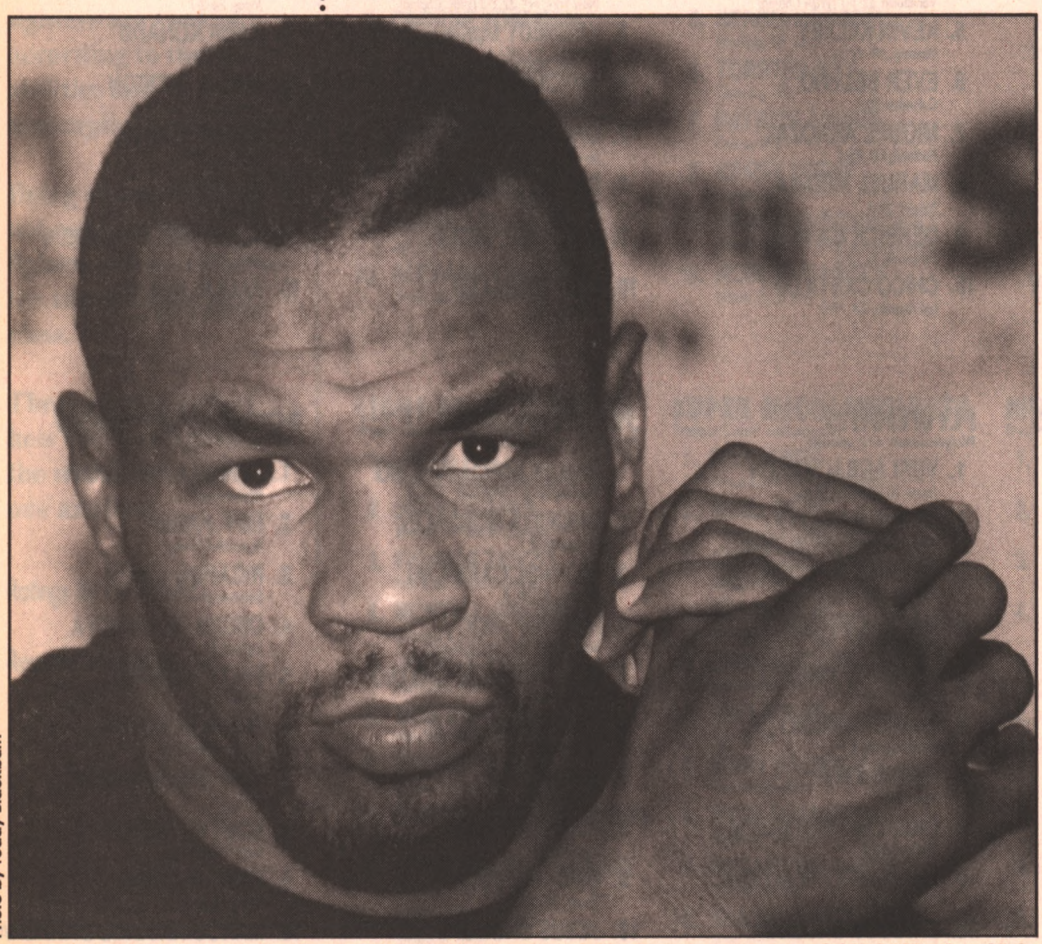


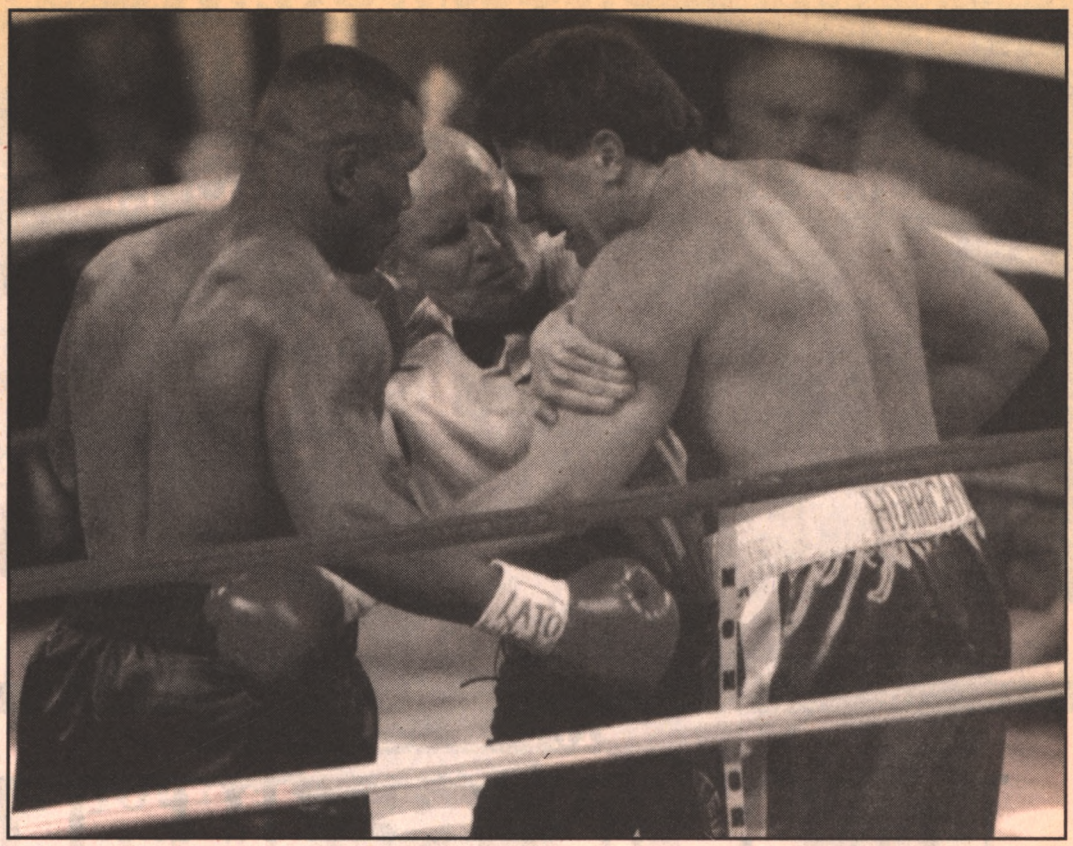
Photo by Teddy Blackburn

And we've got to get ourselves back to the (MGM) garden ... Mike Tyson's return was dubbed "Hoodstock" by columnist Ryan. However, there was little to learn from Tyson's drubbing of Peter McNeeley.

All this despite an outcome that was as easy to predict as a Harlem Globe trotters-Washington Generals game and a marketing strategy in which the star of the show was kept under tighter wraps than his fists. Sparring sessions were closed, journalists were forever kept at a safe distance, and Tyson's promoter, Don King, played

he role of the Pentagon during the Gulf War: releasing information in tiny increments. With a New England accent that was thicker than maple syrup, Peter McNeeley talked the talk and Tyson walked the walk—out the back door of anyplace that had a media horde waiting in front of it and clamoring for his reaction to the Irishman's bluster.

When the last preview story was written, and the last talking head on the scene had said, "We're live in Las Vegas, and now back to the studio," Tyson finally took the stage—for a mere 89 seconds. No sooner had Tyson's bad intentions whetted the appetite than McNeeley's manager, Vinny Vecchione, closed the kitchen. So how much hand speed does Tyson have left? *Can* he still take a punch? The questions remain unanswered, a fact that surely has your cable operator, pocket calculator and 1996 datebook in hand, ecstatic beyond belief.



Referee Mills Lane tries to separate Tyson and McNeeley. Seconds later, "Iron Mike" did just that by driving the Irishman to the floor. A few more seconds later, Vinny Vecchione ended the charade.

Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Within hours of Vecchione's fourth-man-in-the-ring routine, the heavyweight division's spin doctors were ambulance-chasing at breakneck speed. Dr. Dan Duva, whose patients include Michael Moorer and Evander Holyfield, was cutting apart the matchup. Riddick Bowe's chief of verbal surgery, Rock Newman, was dissecting the entire promotion. And Teddy Atlas, Moorer's trainer, was even telling a radio reporter that Tyson—in an 89-second span in which he scored two knockdowns and won—had managed to look bad! (Imagine what Atlas' critique would have been had Tyson needed a whole *two* rounds to get the job done.)

If you think the hoopla and electricity of August 19 in Las Vegas was a stomach-churning experience for victims' rights groups troubled by the sight of a remorseless sexual assailant receiving $25-million and a standing ovation, think of what it did to the digestive systems of Bowe, Lennox Lewis, Moorer, and their respective camps. Spin-doctoring aside, the truth is that Tyson has again become the only heavyweight that matters. Period. Could Bowe have commanded $25-million if *he* were returning from exile? For all the mainstream cares about them, Lewis and Moorer might as well be in prison.

Tyson's fellow heavys are probably hoping that all the hysteria over the McNeeley bout had everything to do with morbid curiosity, that phenomenon that moves our finger to Court TV on the remote control even when we swear we don't want to watch one more minute of the O.J. trial. Some of the spin doctors say Tyson's popularity has peaked, and that the passion for his return will diminish until he moves beyond the Mathises, Seldons, and McCalls and starts launching bombs at Bowe and Foreman. Hook those same forecasters to a polygraph machine, however, and they'd light up like the Coca-Cola billboard in Times Square.

Tyson drew the numbers, and will continue to draw them, for a reason. For him, the return to the ring couldn't have come at a better time. When Foreman struggled with unknown Axel Schulz in April, needing a gift decision to remain champion, he seemed to deliver the final shot to the solar plexus of anyone who remembered the heavyweight division as a place where greatness would always be present in some measure. To many people that night, Big George stopped being the miracle-working hero of a bygone era, the man who was beating Father Time with tactics taught to him by Ali, Frazier, and Lyle. Instead, he became another Bowe, Moorer, or Buster Douglas, a guy who benefited from one great effort and then returned to earth in a flash.

That made Tyson the only current link to heavyweight greatness, the only guy left who had ever known what it was like to be immortal. An ex-champion who, whether or not you like him as a person, is a purist's best hope for making a division someplace historically significant again. This time, he may do so in the controlled surroundings of a lone Vegas hotel, for purses that are obscenely inflated, and with only limited contact with the press. (That's what we all get for not wearing those "FREE MIKE TYSON" T-shirts, not dismissing the jury verdict as a miscarriage of justice, and not badmouthing Desiree Washington for the past four years.) He may do so spouting the teachings of Chairman Mao and CEO King, too, but, at this point, are we in any position to complain? ■

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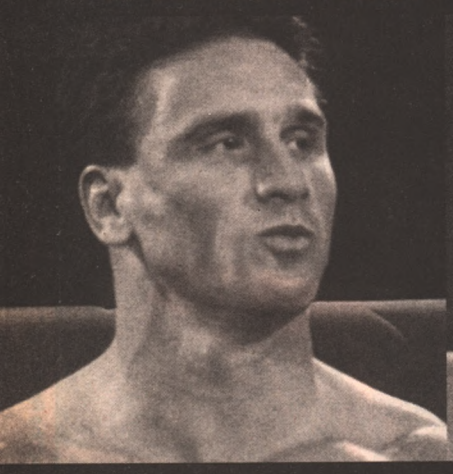

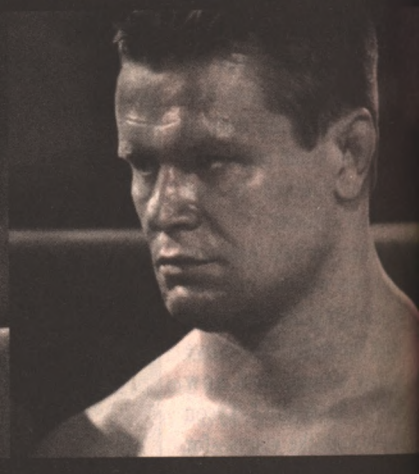

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THE RING INTERVIEWS

Buster Mathis Jr.

Mike, You Got A ight Comin' On"

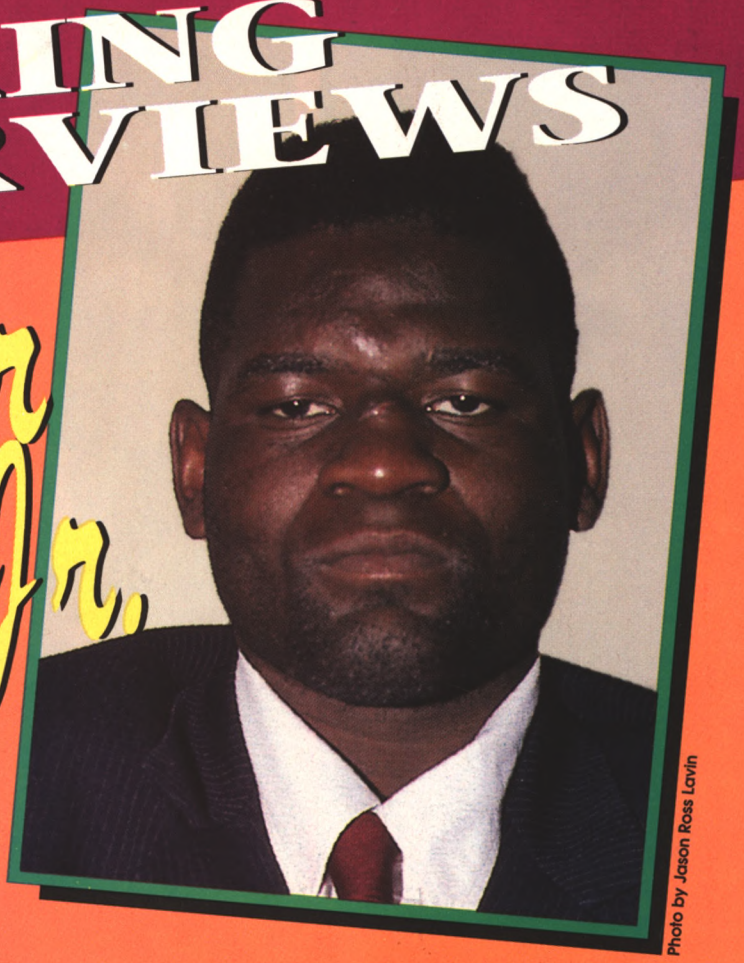


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

ll we learned from Mike Tyson's first comeback bout was that one Peter McNeeley was enough. After four years y from the ring, "Iron Mike" was entitled me gimme. But how about a fight this time?

On November 4, at the MGM Grand in Las gas, Tyson will square off against USBA yweight champion Buster Mathis Jr., who, unately, has only one thing in common with Neeley: He had a father (the late Buster this Sr.) who fought for the heavyweight e. Mathis has a connection with Tyson as l. The fighter's middle name is D'Amato. r a portion of his career, Buster Sr. was ned by the late Cus D'Amato, who discov- d Tyson and developed him into a title con- der.

The 25-year-old Mathis, 20-0 (6) with 1 no- test, lives in Wyoming, Michigan, a suburb Grand Rapids. He is managed by Brian Lee d Bruce Kielty and promoted by Cedric hner. A hard-working heavyweight with vir- ly no power, he has beaten, among others, e Dixon, Tyrell Biggs, Sherman Griffin, ring Lane, and Alex Garcia. In his only bout inst championship-caliber competition, he seemingly en route to a stoppage loss against Riddick Bowe when "Big Daddy" land- ed a crushing blow while Mathis was on one knee. Bowe should have been disqualified. Instead, the August 1994 bout was declared a no-contest.

In his most recent bout, on August 5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mathis kayoed Mike Acklie in one round. It was his first kayo win inside of five rounds.

Two days after promoter Don King announced the Tyson-Mathis bout and two weeks before his father died suddenly of a heart attack at age 51, Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood spoke with Mathis. While the fringe contender will surely be a huge underdog, there's no arguing that he's a giant step up from McNeeley.

THE RING: You were ringside in Las Vegas for Tyson-McNeeley. As a fan, was it an exciting experience?

Buster Mathis Jr.: It was very exciting. I felt the excitement in the air, and I was excited for Mike Tyson. I went through the big-fight feeling with Bowe, and the experience helped me develop more self-esteem and confidence. I'll be ready to do it again. The crowd roaring and cheering—I think it'll be excellent. It'll be another sellout, and I'll be right there in the middle of it.

THE RING: Tyson-Mathis will be much bigger than Bowe-Mathis was. How do you think the atmosphere and surroundings will affect your emotions?

BM: Like my father said, it's not gonna affect me at all. When I walk into the ring, I'll be more relaxed, more calm, and more focused. That's how we're gonna train. A lot of it is a mind game, and you can't let it bother you. When I walk to the ring and confront Mike Tyson, it's gonna be just him and me in the center of the ring, and I'm gonna block everything out and concentrate.

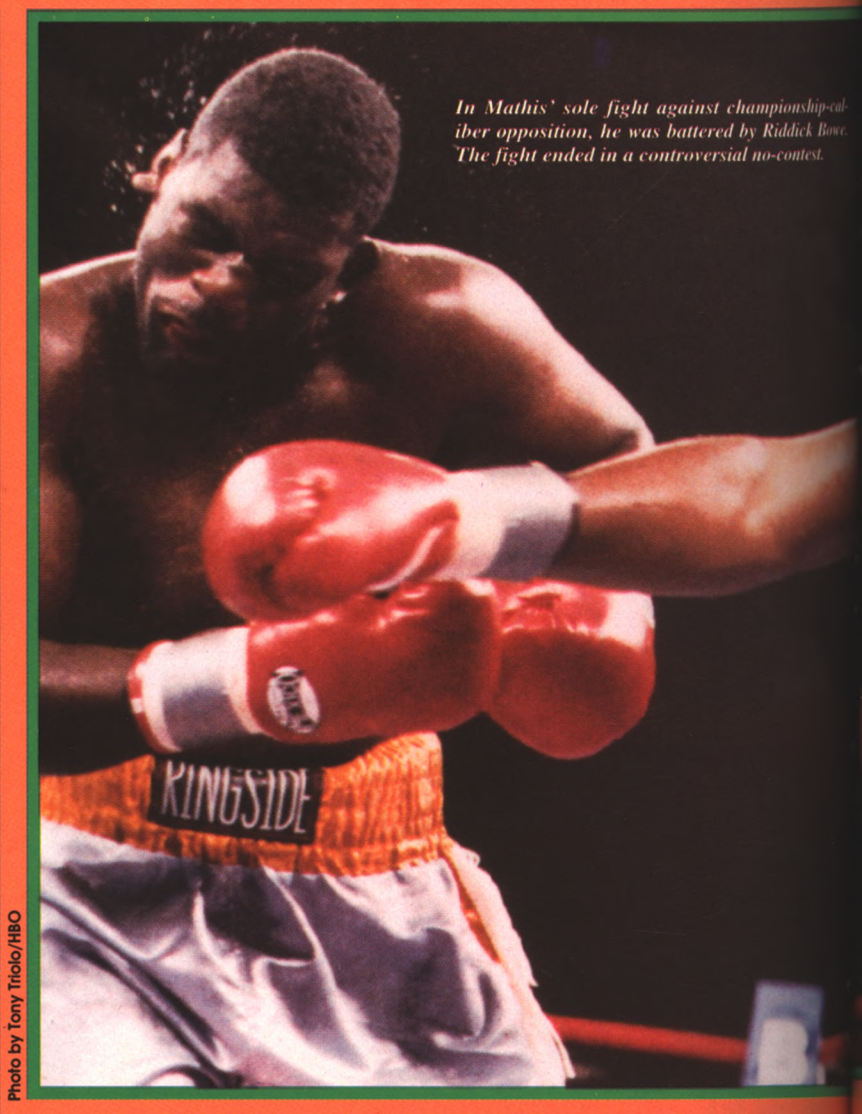
THE RING: Do you think this fight would be much tougher had you not gone through the experience of fighting Bowe?

BM: Oh, yeah. It would be a lot harder for me. But I've since fought tougher guys, guys who hit hard, and everything has prepared me to fight Mike Tyson.

THE RING: What did you learn about yourself from the Bowe fight?

BM: I learned a lot of time I blow everything out of proportion. People said Bowe

"I learned Mike only fights one way; Mike is not surprising. I believe if anything goes wrong, if I get hit with any punches Mike throws, it'll be my fault, instead of Mike's fault."



In Mathis' sole fight against championship-caliber opposition, he was battered by Riddick Bowe. The fight ended in a controversial no-contest.

Photo by Tony Triolo/HBO

was gonna do this to me, do that to me, and when I got in the ring, he didn't do any of it to me. Sometimes when you walk into the ring, reality clicks in and you should fight. I learned that from fighting Bowe. I was still caught in fantasy.

THE RING: The press is going to say Mike Tyson will knock you out. You won't take that to heart this time?

BM: I won't because of what I went through, what I experienced. I'm training extremely hard. If you look at my films, I hardly get hit. And I'll be more prepared and more focused when I fight Mike.

THE RING: Do you feel what happened in the Tyson-McNeeley fight was a disgrace?

BM: Oh, yeah. Nobody gave McNeeley a chance when he had a chance. I believe it was totally unfair what happened. I believe McNeeley could've finished up the round, then maybe one or two more. That's what I saw. I think it's a shame how the guy [trainer-manager Vinny Vecchione] walked in there and said McNeeley didn't have a chance. It wasn't McNeeley's fault. It was the people working McNeeley's corner.

THE RING: If, when you fight Tyson, one of your cornermen rushes into the ring and does what Vinny Vecchione did, will you be upset?

BM: I'd probably be a little upset, of course. I want to fight.

THE RING: You were quoted today in the *Philadelphia Daily News* as being unimpressed with Tyson's performance against McNeeley. Be specific. What were you unimpressed with?

BM: When I was critical, what I meant was that I believe I should've seen a little bit more of Mike Tyson. It wasn't criticism of Mike, it was more criticism of how the whole situation was handled.

THE RING: You said Tyson's punches were wide.

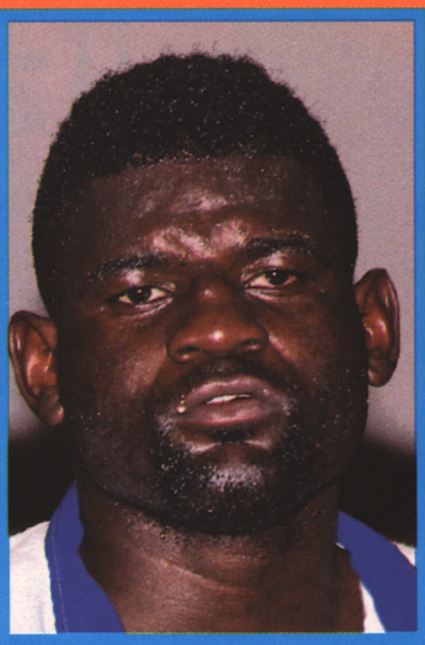
BM: A little bit.

THE RING: And that would be an advantage for you because you'd easily be able to get out of the way.

BM: Oh, yes. To be good in this sport, you must have a good defense. If you don't, you're not gonna last long. Maybe I was a little critical of Mike, but he's the best heavyweight out there, and the number-one draw at heavyweight. I can't criticize that. People

In Tyson's comeback fight, Peter McNeeley was game, but terribly outclassed. "I believe McNeeley could've finished up the round, then maybe one or two more," Mathis said of the controversial stoppage.

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport



"Get Mike's respect, huh? Well, I gotta hurt the man. I gotta show Mike Tyson I'm no wussy. I'm going in there and rumble with the man."

feel Mike Tyson is better than me, better than Bowe and Holyfield and everyone out there.

THE RING: Was the fight too short to learn anything about Tyson?

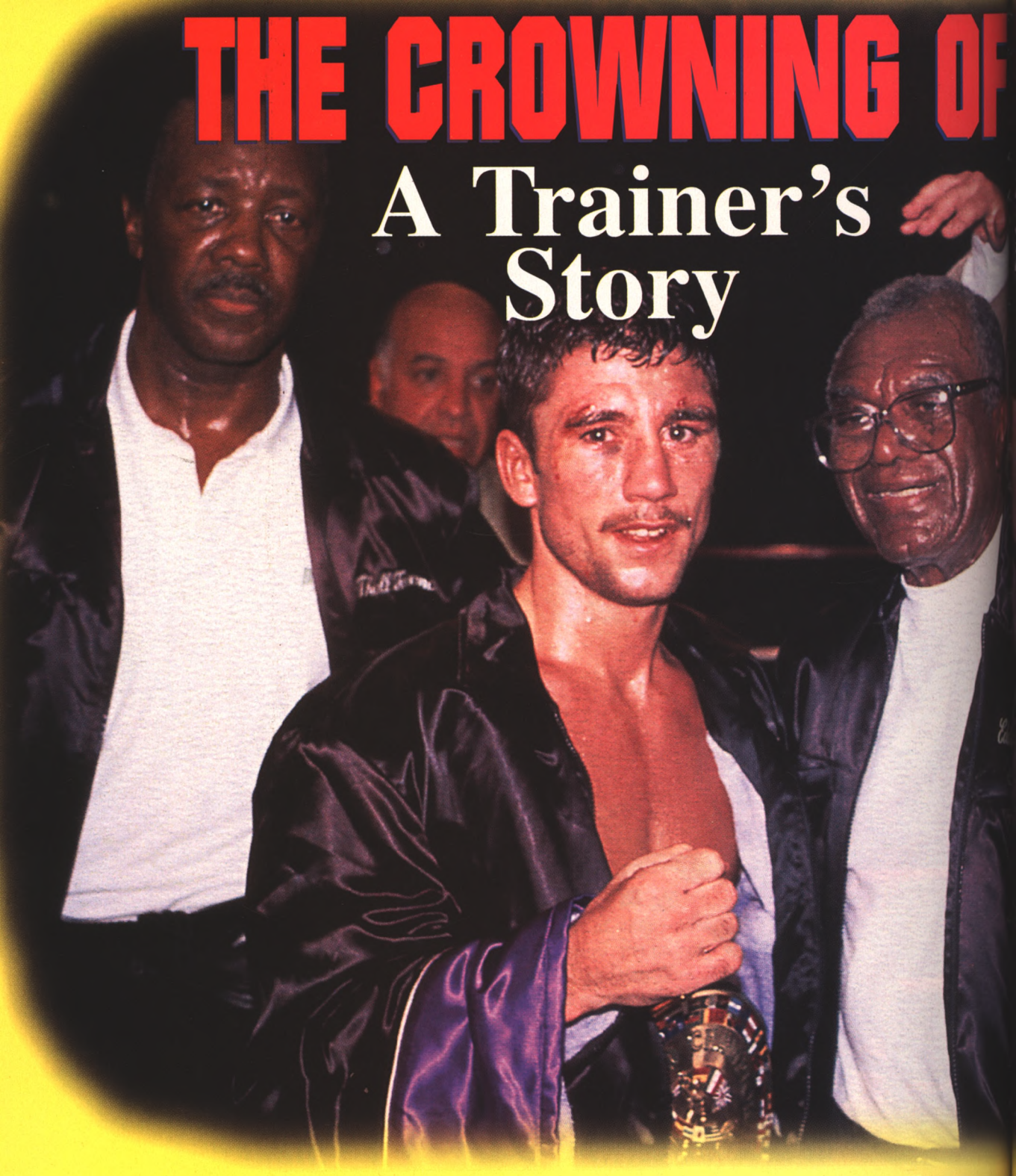
BM: I learned a lot of stuff. I learned about the atmosphere. I learned Mike only fights one way; Mike is not surprising. I believe if anything goes wrong, if I get hit with any punches Mike throws, it'll be my fault, instead of Mike's fault.

THE RING: You've always been a fairly aggressive fighter who likes to move inside and outwork your opponent. With Bowe, who was

(Continued on page 67)

THE CROWNING OF

A Trainer's Story



Eddie Futch, who celebrated his 84th birthday in August, refuses to slow down. And given his magic touch, why should he? Futch, who is arguably the greatest trainer in boxing history, crowned his 19th world champion on July 30, when Ireland's unbeaten Wayne McCullough dethroned defending WBC bantamweight champion Yasuei Yakushiji at the Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium in Nagoya, Japan. It was a fast-paced and physical bout, with the 25-year-old McCullough, 17-0 (13), topping Yakushiji, 24-3-1 (16), by split scores of 118-110, 116-113, and 115-116.

When Futch returned from Japan, he shared the story of the fight with THE RING.

By Eddie Futch

I sensed from the beginning that Wayne McCullough was a potential world champion. But I had something to go on: I've had a lot of success with Olympic silver medalists. I had Virgil Hill after his first pro fight, and I

WAYNE McCULLOUGH

McCullough took the WBC
mweight title from Yasuei
shiji in Japan, he poses
from left, assistant trainer
Torrence, trainer Eddie
, and manager Matt Tinley.

Photos by Mikio Nakai/World Boxing, Japan

THE FUTCH TOUCH

On July 30, Wayne McCullough won the WBC bantamweight title and became Eddie Futch's 19th world champion. Here's a complete listing of the world champions Futch has trained (multiple champions are listed at their highest championship weights):

Heavyweight: Riddick Bowe, Trevor Berbick, Michael Spinks, Larry Holmes, Ken Norton, Joe Frazier
Cruiserweight: Marvin Camel
Light Heavyweight: Virgil Hill, Mike McCallum, Bob Foster
Welterweight: Marlon Starling, Hedgemon Lewis, Maurice Blocker, Don Jordan
Junior Welterweight: Leroy Haley, Bruce Curry
Lightweight: Alexis Arguello
Featherweight: Antonio Gomez
Bantamweight: Wayne McCullough

The banties traded right hands throughout, with McCullough landing (left) and Yakushiji always managing to answer (above). However, in the end it was the Irishman's jab that was the difference.

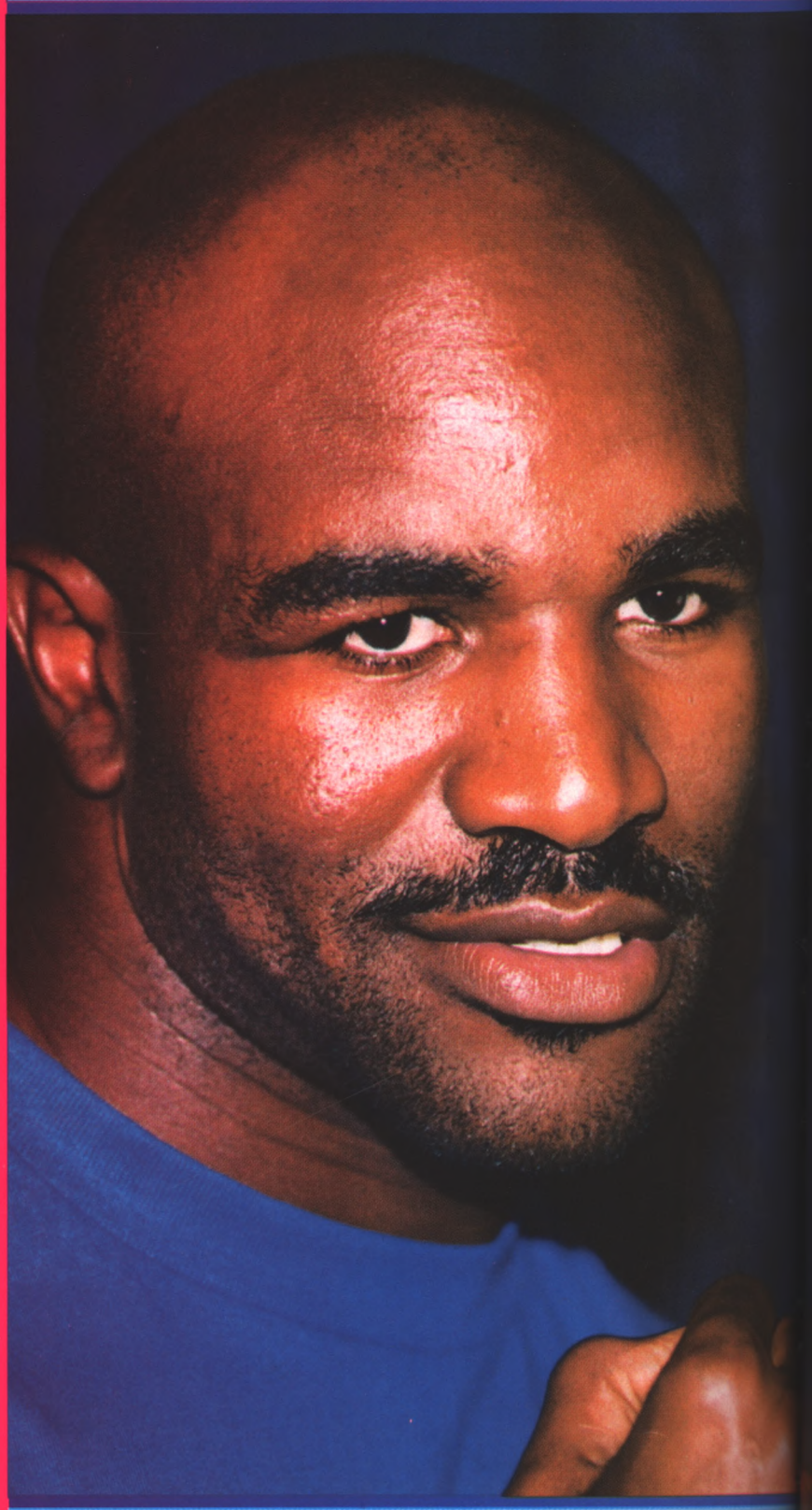
him to the title without a hitch. With ick Bowe, it was the same thing. ullough is my third silver medalist, and, Virgil and Riddick, he became a world pion without a loss on his professional d.

Wayne impressed me from the beginning. Riddick was a kid who needed help. His mother had done a tremendous job, but he had never had a male model to pattern himself after. I saw that right way. He needed someone who demanded that he do certain things. I told him, "I've had five world champions at heavyweight, and you have the potential to be number six. But it has to be my way or I walk. I'm 78, and I don't have time to waste."

With Wayne, from the beginning he complied with everything I asked him to do. My assistant trainer, Thell Torrence, or I would show him a move, and an hour later we'd see

(Continued on page 67)

HOLYFIELD-BOWE III



By Nigel Collins

Consumer Alert: Sick of wasting your hard-earned money on overpriced heavyweight mismatches? Repulsed by the thought of watching another hero-vs.-stiff charade? Well, do we have a deal for you. On November 4, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield will renew a rivalry that has already produced two of the finest fights of the '90s. There will be no phony title belt on the line, no sleazy trash-talking, and no preemptive strike by a timid corner-

The Heavyweight Fight That's Really A Fight

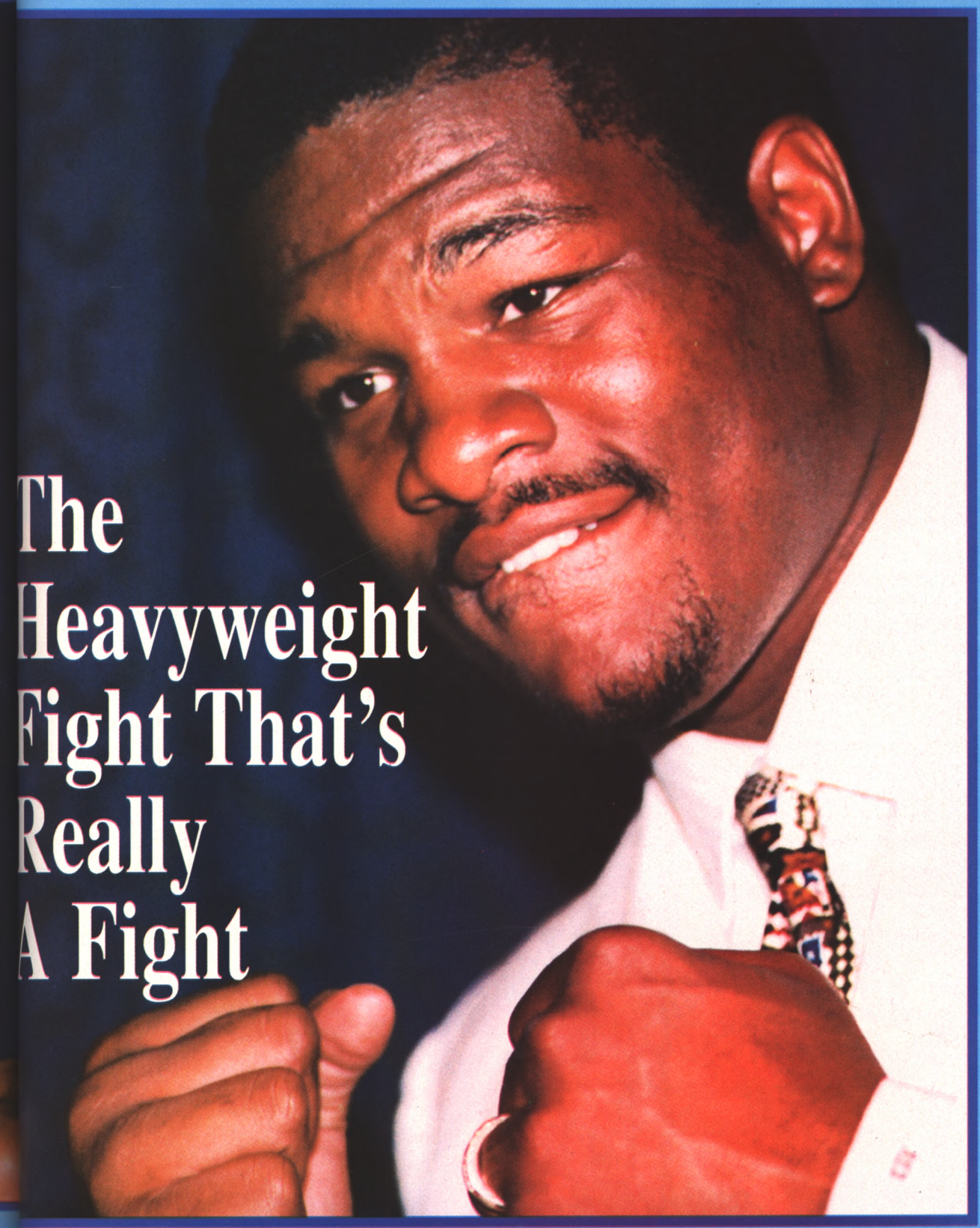


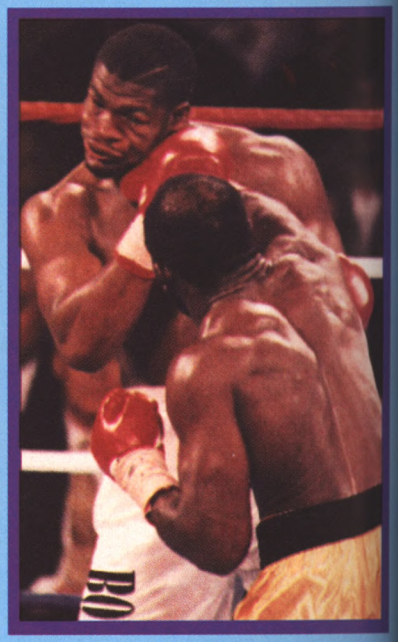
Photo by Marty Rosengarten

m. Just two of the very best heavyweights in world in a compelling matchup that practi- lly guarantees a splendid fight. Wow! What a ncept! Maybe it'll catch on.

Sarcasm aside, it's reassuring to know re's still a place for competitive heavyweight fights. And in an indirect way, we can thank the reemergence of Mike Tyson. Though the sport's biggest attraction is currently content to snack on the division's bottom feeders, the expectation is that somewhere down the line, after disposing of all the various Don King-controlled opponents, Tyson will need to prove his mettle by fighting the best of the rest. And that man will most likely be the winner of Holyfield-Bowe III.

But the rubber match doesn't need a Tyson tie-in to validate it. It's a fight that can stand on its own merits. In fact, the first two fights were

In their first battle (left), Bowe relied on an impressive arsenal, including some well-aimed right uppercuts, to punish Holyfield into his first loss. In the rematch (below), a determined Holyfield boxed more, picked his spots, and edged his rival on points.



so good, some people are calling the Bowe-Holyfield series the Ali-Frazier of the '90s.

In their first encounter, in November 1992, Bowe won the undisputed title in the finest performance of his career. But Holyfield's heroic stand, especially his back-from-the-brink rally in the 10th round, enhanced his popularity and reinforced his reputation as boxing's ultimate warrior. A year later, "The Real Deal" regained the title in another outstanding fight, only to be slightly upstaged by the unscheduled appearance of Fan Man. Together, the two bouts represent the best heavyweight action we've seen the first half of this decade.

After the second fight, Bowe and Holyfield went their separate ways, but neither ever again shined as brightly. Holyfield, suddenly looking old and tired, lost the title to Michael Moorer in his very next fight. Bowe took an eight-month sabbatical, and when he returned against Buster Mathis Jr., he appeared disinterested and overweight. In the end, Bowe was lucky to escape with a no-contest after belting an already downed Mathis with a flagrantly illegal shot in the fourth round. Nobody was impressed, and the whispers that started when Holyfield outhustled him grew louder.

While Bowe seemed content to piddle away his considerable talents in a pique of calorie consumption, Holyfield entered his hole-in-the-heart stage. You remember how that escapade went. First, Holyfield was informed he was suffering from a career-ending cardiac condition. Then God healed him. Maybe. There is also a strong possibility that there was never anything wrong with his heart in the first place. Whatever the case, after a 13-month layoff, Holyfield returned in May '95, pounding out a stirring win over an unusually highly motivated Ray Mercer.

Following the Mathis embarrassment, Bowe slowly worked his way back into the fans' good graces with a series of gradually improving performances. Nobody got too excited when he outpointed Larry Donald and knocked out Herbie Hide, but beating bully Jorge Luis Gonzalez to a pulp in his most recent start proved wildly popular, and also earned high praise from the media.

Bowe, 37-1 (31) with 1 no-contest, is firmly favored to win the rubber match, but that won't dissuade true boxing enthusiasts from watching, especially those who saw the first two fights. Sure, Bowe is younger, bigger, stronger, and can punch harder, but Holyfield has always been full of surprises.

"Holyfield came back like the monster in *Friday The 13th*," said Bowe's manager, Rock

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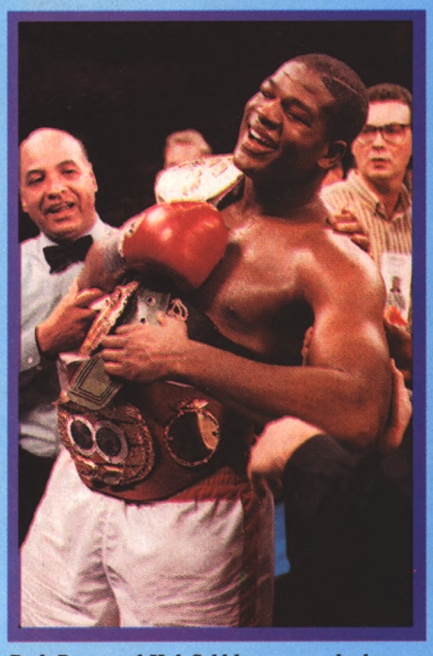
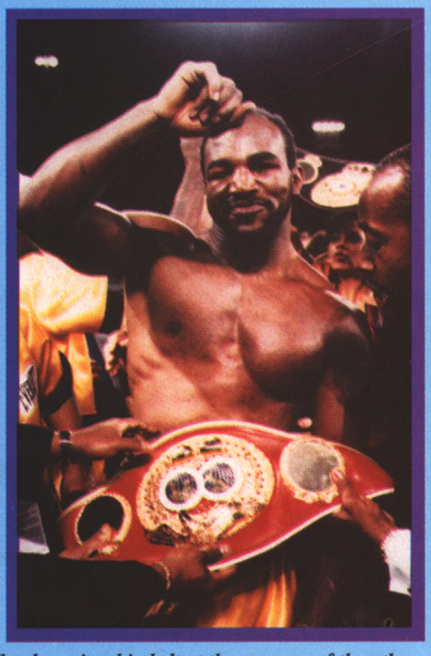


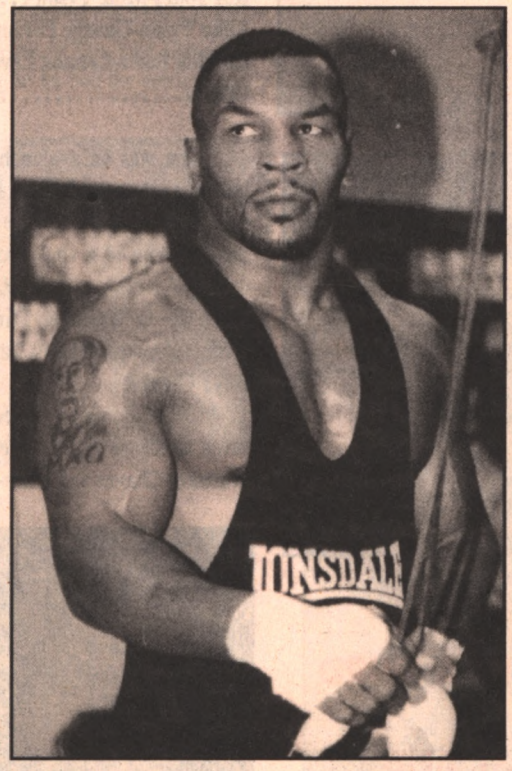


Both Bowe and Holyfield have worn the heavyweight championship belt at the expense of the other. This time, no belt is at stake, but that doesn't diminish the significance of the bout in the least.

Boxing Insiders Have Their Say

Compiled By Steve Farhood

In 1993, we ran the first-ever *Ring* Insiders Poll. The results were revealing, so we figured we'd try it again. This time we sent out—and received back—even more ballots. Once again, we quizzed a cross-section of The Sweet Science: fighters and writers, managers and trainers, ring announcers and TV announcers, referees, judges, matchmakers, promoters, state commissioners, and even a publicist or two. We promised anonymity; not even *we* know who answered what. Given the nature of the questions, we're sure the voters preferred it that way.



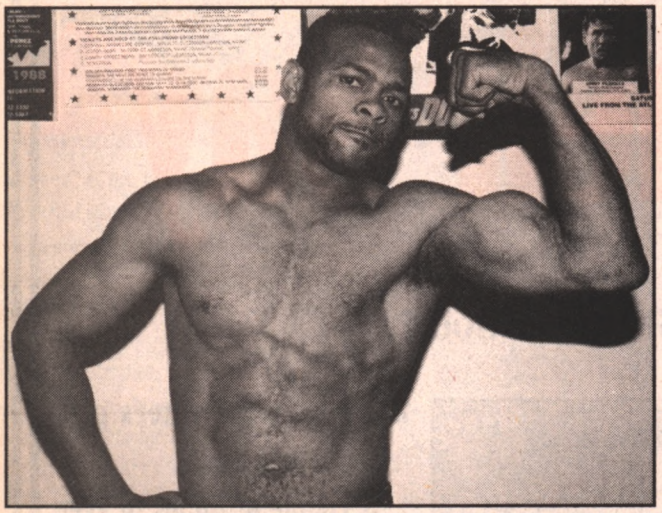
A couple of things to keep in mind as you consider the answers: Most of the ballots were filled out and returned in July, and before Mike Tyson's scheduled comeback bout against Peter McNeeley. And less than five percent of our ballots were mailed internationally. As a result, the picture is most definitely colored red, white, and blue.

Think about how *you'd* answer the questions in our second Insiders Poll. Who knows, before long we may conduct our first-ever *Readers* Poll.

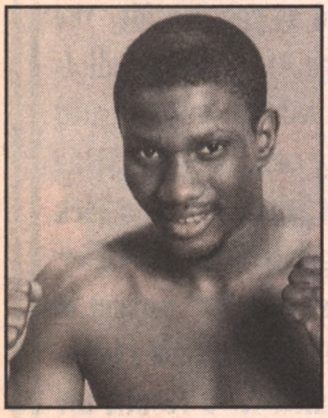
Q: WHO IS THE BEST FIGHTER, POUND-FOR-POUND, IN THE WORLD?

Roy Jones **66%**
Pernell Whitaker **18%**
Felix Trinidad **4%**
Oscar De La Hoya **3%**
Others **9%**

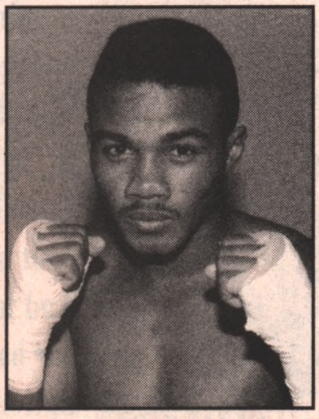
Everyone had an opinion on this one, and Jones blew away Whitaker, who, by the way, remains number one in THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings. Muhammad Ali received a vote, which proves that even insiders can be left on the outside. How times have changed: In our 1993 poll, Julio Cesar Chavez received 59 percent of the vote. He's still a world champion, but this time he didn't get a single mention.



Roy Jones



Pernell Whitaker

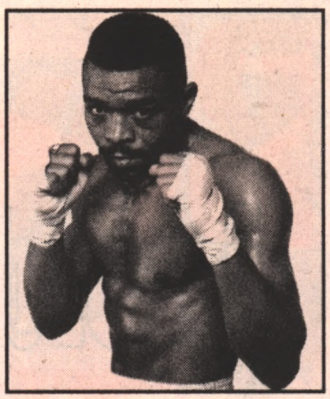


Felix Trinidad

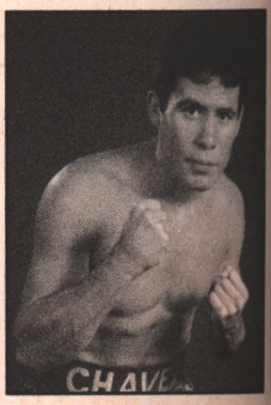
Q: WHO WOULD WIN A THIRD FIGHT BETWEEN FRANKIE RANDALL AND JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ?

Randall **69%**
Chavez **31%**

Randall's poor performance against Jose Barboza didn't sway the voters, who clearly believe that if "The Surgeon" steps on the gas, he can anesthetize "J.C. Superstar." To put this result in perspective, consider that in our 1993 poll, 78 percent of our voters said Chavez would beat Pernell Whitaker. What do insiders know, anyway?



Frankie Randall



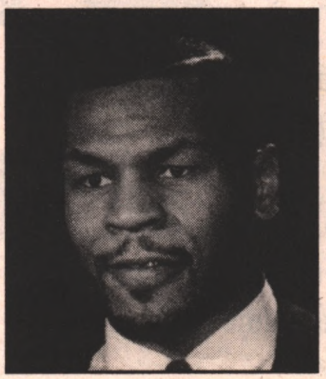
Julio Cesar Chavez

Q: IF THERE WAS ONE MATCHUP YOU COULD MAKE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

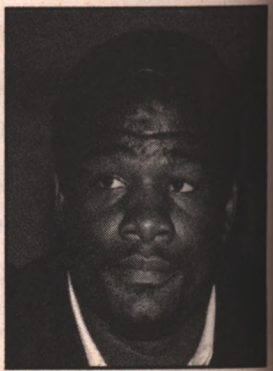
Mike Tyson-Riddick Bowe **34%**
Pernell Whitaker-Felix Trinidad **11%**
Roy Jones-Nigel Benn **5%**
Roy Jones-Mike Tyson **4%**
Mike Tyson-George Foreman **3%**
Riddick Bowe-Lennox Lewis **3%**
Others **40%**

There was an avalanche of different responses. Some of the more imaginative answers: Roy Jones-Tommy Morrison, Julio Cesar Chavez-Luis Santana, and Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad. George Foreman-Joe Frazier received a vote, proving there are sadists among us. No surprise that Tyson-Bowe was the fight of choice. Seems like most insiders have given up on Whitaker-Trinidad. Fights we expected would do better: Danny Romero-Johnny Tapia, De La Hoya-Kostya Tszyu, and De La Hoya-Chavez.

In 1993, Bowe-Lewis led the way with 23 percent. Interestingly, of the seven matchups that received three percent or more of the vote, only two, Whitaker-Chavez and Jones-James Toney, have materialized.



Mike Tyson



Riddick Bowe

Q: WHICH NETWORK AIRS BETTER FIGHTS, SHOWTIME/SET OR HBO/TVKO?

howtime/SET 47%
BO/TVKO 43%
ren 10%

How the mighty have fallen! Throughout the '80s and early-'90s, HBO as the king of televised boxing. That seems to have changed. And keep mind that the ballots were filled out *before* Mike Tyson's return to howtime/SET.

Score one for Don King.

Q: WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DON KING'S IMPACT ON BOXING AS EXTREMELY NEGATIVE; MOSTLY NEGATIVE; MOSTLY POSITIVE; OR EXTREMELY POSITIVE?

Mostly Negative 35%
Mostly Positive 29%
Extremely Negative 28%
Extremely Positive 7%
All Four 1%

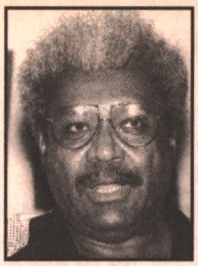
TV Guide once ran a poll that revealed Howard Cosell to be both the most liked and most hated sports announcer on television. The vote was similarly split on King, though 63 percent considered his impact negative. Judging by the answers to our question "Who Is The Best Promoter In Boxing?", many of those who believe King to be bad for boxing readily acknowledge his promotional talent.

The Don with John Horne and Rory Holloway

Q: WHO IS BOXING'S BEST PROMOTER?

Don King 52%
Bob Arum 19%
Dan Duva 11%
Cedric Kushner 4%
Arum Boxing 4%
Others 10%

Tyson isn't the only one in the midst of a comeback. The Big Three remains The Big Three, but compare the numbers with our 1993 poll, which Arum led with 35 percent, Duva followed with 23 percent, and King trailed with only 14 percent. There's no doubt Tyson's incarceration directly led to some of the best work of King's 20-plus-year career.



Don King

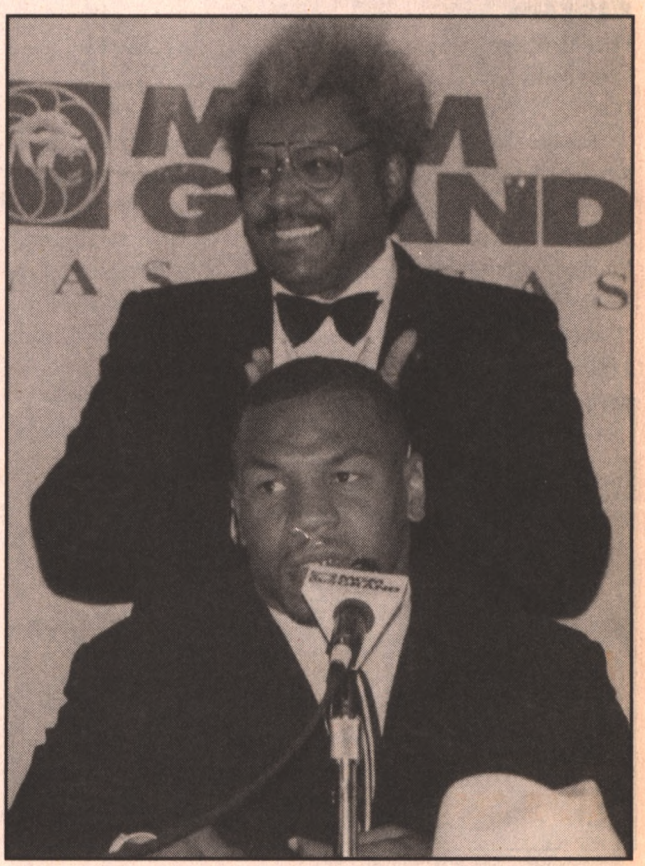
Bob Arum

Dan Duva

Q: IF YOU HAD BEEN ADVISING MIKE TYSON, WOULD YOU HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT HE RENEW HIS PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH DON KING?

No 78%
Yes 22%

King may be boxing's best promoter, but ... We wonder how many of our voters wish Tyson had begun a relationship with *them*. An interesting followup question would have been: Were You Surprised That Tyson Returned To King? We didn't ask it because we didn't think everyone would answer honestly.



King is again behind Tyson

Q: WOULD YOU DESCRIBE BOXING'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS HOPELESS; CLOUDY; STATUS QUO; PROMISING; OR SHINING?

Cloudy **34%**
Status Quo **30%**
Promising **30%**
Hopeless **4%**
Shining **2%**

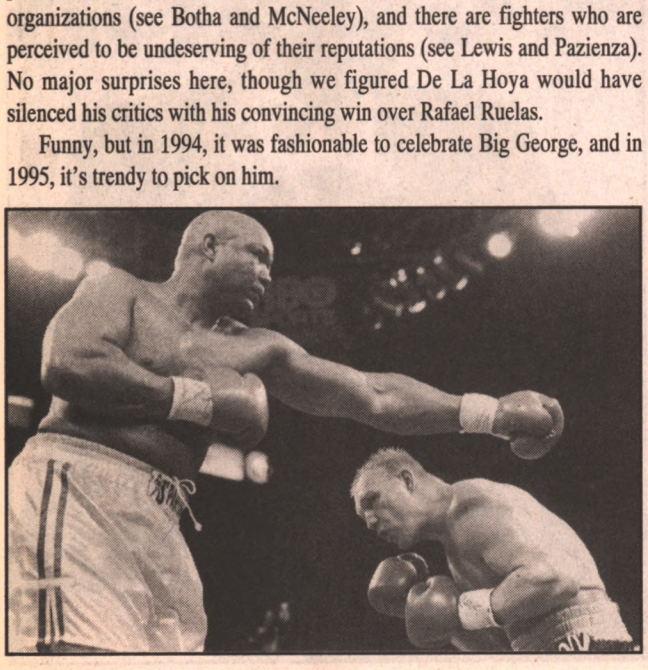
Seems like the glass is both half-empty and half-full. Has the state of the game changed in the past 2½ years? Last time we asked, the answers were almost identical, with "cloudy," "status quo," and "promising" combining for 95 percent of the vote. Given Tyson's pending return, we expected a somewhat rosier outlook.

Q: WHO IS THE MOST OVERRATED FIGHTER IN THE GAME?

George Foreman **12%**
Lennox Lewis **9%**
Vinny Pazienza **5%**
Oscar De La Hoya **5%**
Miguel Angel Gonzalez **5%**
Julio Cesar Chavez **5%**
Terry Norris **4%**
Riddick Bowe **4%**
Peter McNeeley **4%**
Frans Botha **4%**
Others **43%**

This question can be viewed in two ways. There are fighters who are perceived to be undeserving of their status in the rankings of the alphabet organizations (see Botha and McNeeley), and there are fighters who are perceived to be undeserving of their reputations (see Lewis and Pazienza). No major surprises here, though we figured De La Hoya would have silenced his critics with his convincing win over Rafael Ruelas.

Funny, but in 1994, it was fashionable to celebrate Big George, and in 1995, it's trendy to pick on him.

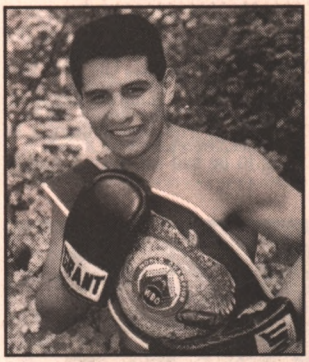


Foreman is off-target vs. Axel Schulz

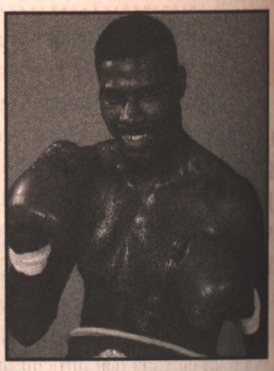
Q: WHO IS THE MOST UNDERRATED FIGHTER IN THE GAME?

Marco Antonio Barrera **9%**
Tom Johnson **6%**
Orzubek Nazarov **6%**
Mark Johnson **6%**
Ike Quartey **5%**
Felix Trinidad **5%**
Gabe Ruelas **4%**
Henry Maske **4%**
Ricardo Lopez **4%**
Pernell Whitaker **4%**
Virgil Hill **4%**
Roy Jones **4%**
Others **39%**

There were a lot more fighters receiving votes for Underrated than Overrated. (At least no one was included near the top of both lists.) Interestingly, no heavyweights were among the Underrated leaders. Barrera won't be underrated for long, while Mark Johnson, Nazarov, and Quartey have suffered because of limited exposure on national television. We can't figure why anyone would have voted for Whitaker, who until recently was regarded as the best fighter in boxing. Underappreciated? Maybe. Underrated? Hardly.



Marco Antonio Barrera



Tom Johnson

Q: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS WOULD YOU RATE AS MOST SERIOUS FOR BOXING: MISMATCHES; LACK OF MEDIA COVERAGE; NEGATIVE IMAGE; TOO MANY CHAMPIONS PER DIVISION; PROLIFERATION OF WEIGHT CLASSES; LACK OF NATIONAL OR FEDERAL CONTROL; OR SELFISH ALPHABET ORGANIZATIONS?

Selfish Alphabet Organizations **31%**
Too Many Champions Per Division **19%**

gative Image 12%
ck of Media Coverage..... 11%
smatches..... 10%
ck of National or Federal Control..... 10%
liferation of Weight Classes 7%

That means you, the WBA, WBC, IBF, WBO, and countless nnabes. Lots of ballots included multiple answers, but the alphabet boys re deemed most guilty of all. Are the inmates running the asylum?

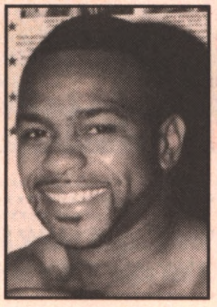
WBC President Jose Sulaiman & IBF chief Bob Lee

Q: IF YOU COULD BUY STOCK IN ANY ONE PROSPECT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

ar De La Hoya..... 14%
y Jones..... 14%
el Scott..... 10%
eem Hamed 9%
e Tyson..... 5%
rage Tshabalala 5%
hers..... 43%

Was the question that difficult to understand? De La Hoya and Jones ed prospect status a long time ago, and those who voted for Tyson irely missed the point. The strong showing of Scott and South Africa's abalala is further evidence that nothing is coveted like a young, unbeat- heavyweight. The highly skilled and charismatic Hamed isn't really a spect anymore either, but there's no denying the Englishman's poten- Some of the others who received votes: Dana Rosenblatt, Shannon ggs, Chris Byrd, William Joppy, Tim Austin, Shane Mosley, David , and Alexandr Zolkin.

car De La Hoya



Roy Jones

Jo-el Scott

Q: WHO IS THE BEST HEAVYWEIGHT IN THE WORLD?

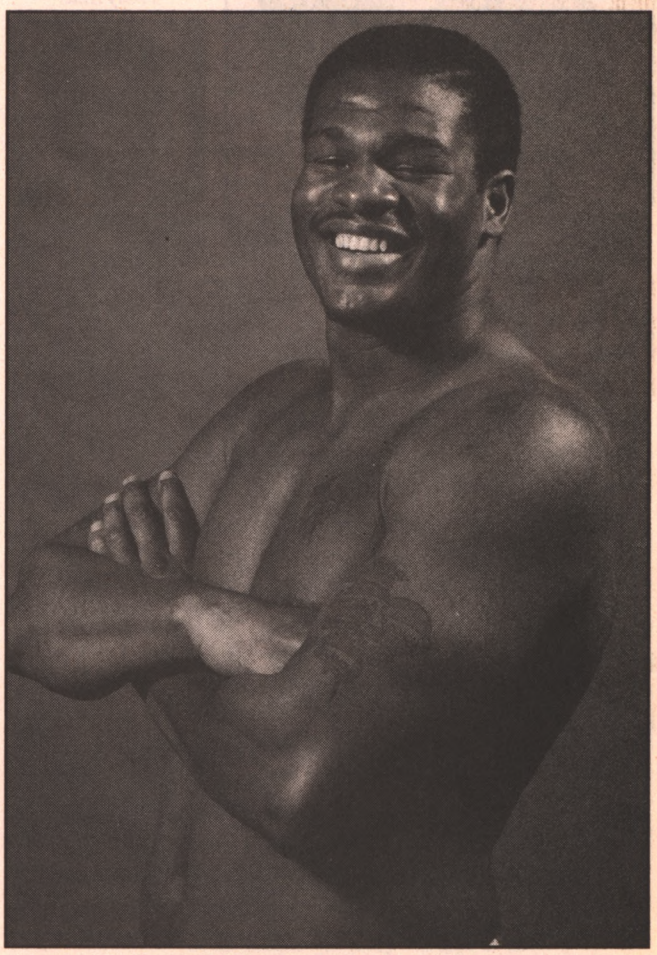
Riddick Bowe..... 74%
Mike Tyson..... 21%
Others..... 5%

You have to figure Tyson's support will increase as his comeback progresses. According to the insiders, there are only two heavyweights who matter. Evander Holyfield, Michael Moorer, Oliver McCall, and Bruce Seldon received minimal support, and Lennox Lewis and George Foreman were shut out.

Q: WHO WOULD WIN A FIGHT BETWEEN RIDDICK BOWE AND MIKE TYSON?

Bowe..... 67%
Tyson..... 33%

Go figure: The numbers reveal that some of the insiders who picked Bowe as the world's best heavyweight also picked Tyson to beat him. Think about this: Despite the fact that the insiders favored Bowe by a sizable margin, the Las Vegas sports books continue to make Tyson the favorite.



Riddick Bowe: Better than Tyson?

Q: WHO IS BOXING'S BEST TRAINER?

Eddie Futch **30%**
Teddy Atlas **17%**
Emanuel Steward **16%**
George Benton **7%**
Alton Merkerson **4%**
Angelo Dundee **3%**
Jesse Reid **3%**
Others **20%**

Futch is not only today's best, but arguably the best ever. Atlas, who received only six percent of the vote last time, moved up largely because of his success with Michael Moorer. Of interest is the strong showing of Steward, who in our 1993 poll failed to place among the leaders. Credit his work with Julio Cesar Chavez and Evander Holyfield. By the way, Lou Duva, who no longer trains in tandem with Benton, received only one vote.

Eddie Futch

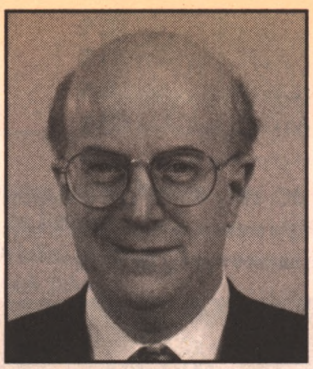
Teddy Atlas

Emanuel Steward

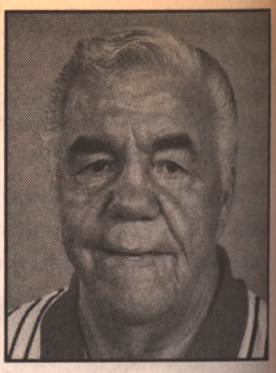
Q: WHO IS BOXING'S BEST MANAGER?

Shelly Finkel **16%**
Lou Duva **10%**
Dave Wolf **9%**
Rock Newman **9%**
George Foreman **9%**
Bill Cayton **8%**
Jackie Kallen **7%**
Mickey Duff **5%**
Others **27%**

Partners Finkel and Duva ran first and second, as they did last time. But they combined for only 26 percent of the vote, as opposed to 44 percent in 1993. They continue to guide Pernell Whitaker. However, Evander Holyfield has moved on, John-John Molina is no longer a world champion, and Egerton Marcus has been a disappointment. The meticulous Wolf, the bombastic Newman, the egomaniacal Cayton, and the aggressive Kallen made repeat appearances. And we assure you that those who voted for Foreman were quite serious.



Shelly Finkel

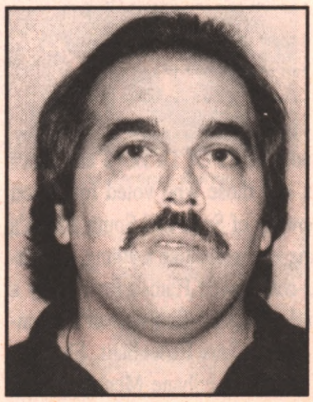


Lou Duva

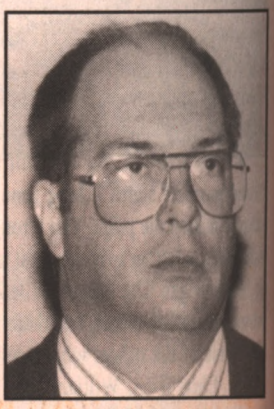
Q: WHO IS BOXING'S BEST MATCHMAKER?

Ron Katz **27%**
Bruce Trampler **13%**
Russell Peltz **12%**
Tony Curtis **10%**
Al Braverman **10%**
Carl Moretti **5%**
Peyton Sher **5%**
Others **18%**

A sweep for Top Rank, with Katz (East) and Trampler (West) finishing one-two. And why not? The matchmakers, both of whom are disciples of the great Teddy Brenner, refuse to baby prospects. Don King's duo, Braverman and Sher, combined for only 15 percent. Promoter/matchmaker Peltz did well, largely because his bouts at the Blue Horizon are consistently among the most competitive in boxing.



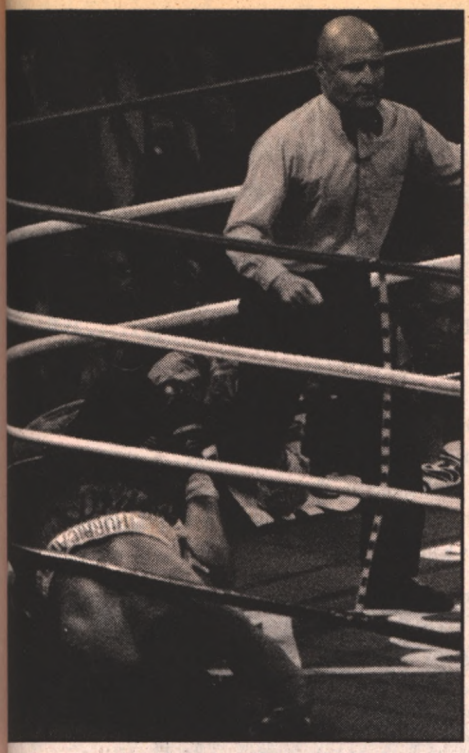
Ron Katz



Bruce Trampler

Q: WHO IS BOXING'S BEST REFEREE?

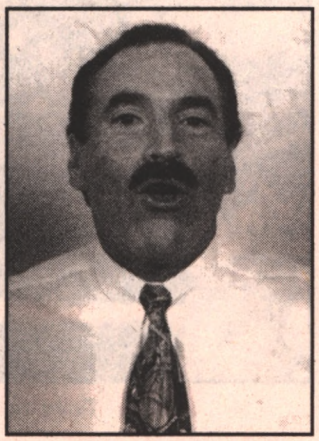
Mills Lane **39%**
Steve Smoger **14%**
Joe Cortez **9%**
Richard Steele **8%**
Others **30%**



Lane got an up-close view of Tyson-McNeeley

The more things change ... Last time, the order of finish was Lane, Cortez, Steele, Smoger. As in 1993, there were a handful of others who received one or two votes each—but, we suspect, not as many as there would have been had we asked our voters to identify boxing's *worst* referee. If there's a message here, it's t big fights create major exposure, and in Las Vegas, Lane, Cortez, and ele continue to land the plum assignments. There wasn't a single vote r another Nevada official, Mitch Halpern, who is being groomed as a -fight referee of the future.

Joe Cortez



Steve Smoger

Q: DO YOU PREFER WATCHING ESPN'S TOP RANK BOXING OR THE USA NETWORK'S UESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS?

sday Night Fights 62%
Rank Boxing..... 38%

While TRB has been around longer, ESPN has long bounced its 15- -old boxing show from night to night and time slot to time slot. TNF, he other hand, is far more accessible.

A change is brewing: In 1996, most Top Rank-promoted shows will move to ESPN2, which is available in far less markets than its mother network. ESPN plans to air one network-quality show per month, using a variety of promoters.

TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS

Q: WHO WOULD WIN A FIGHT BETWEEN PERNELL WHITAKER AND FELIX TRINIDAD?

Whitaker..... 67%
Trinidad 33%

More importantly, will we ever see it? Solid support for "Sweet Pea," who is more likely to square off with Ike Quartey than Trinidad. In a perfect world, fellow welterweight champions Trinidad and Quartey would duke it out, with the winner to face Whitaker.

Pernell Whitaker

Q: IF BOXING HAD A NATIONAL OR FEDERAL CZAR OR COMMISSIONER, WHO WOULD YOU APPOINT TO THE POSITION?

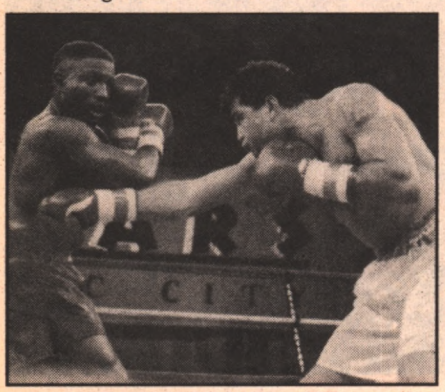
Steve Farhood 10%
Marc Ratner 7%
Larry Hazzard 7%
Phill Marder 5%
Alex Wallau 5%
Gil Clancy 4%
Mike Trainer 4%
Arthur Mercante Sr. 4%
Others 54%

Charges of ballot box-stuffing abound! THE RING Editor Farhood edged commission bosses Ratner (Nevada) and Hazzard (New Jersey). No, Farhood didn't vote for himself, but the members of his family, who mysteriously received two ballots each, most certainly did. The vote was predictably spread thin. There was relatively strong support for Marder, whose universally accepted recordkeeping service adds legitimacy to the game. In all, five different politicians received votes, as did 16 members of the media. There was one split vote for Moses/Jesus, which suggests boxing is in worse shape than we thought.

Steve Farhood

Q: WOULD YOU RATHER WATCH PERNELL WHITAKER MASTERFULLY OUTBOX, BUT NEVER HURT, A WORLD-CLASS OPPONENT FOR 12 ROUNDS OR TWO CLUBFIGHTERS TRADE HAYMAKERS IN AN EXCITING BUT CRUDE BRAWL THAT ENDS INSIDE THE DISTANCE?

Whitaker's bout 50%
The clubfighters 50%



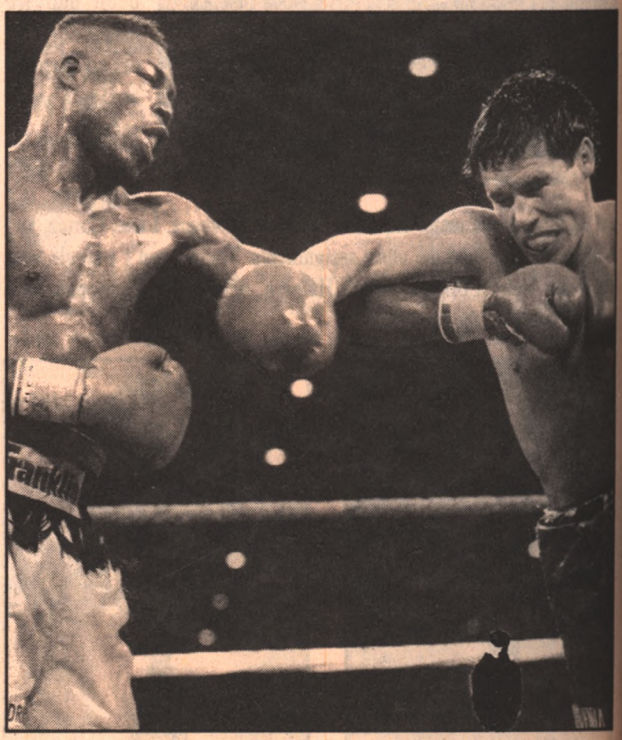
Whitaker outboxes Julio Cesar Vasquez

So are we aficionados of the sweetest of sciences or blood-lusting louts? There's always been room, of course, for both types of bouts. Just wondering: How many insiders voted for Whitaker's bout only because they were embarrassed to admit the truth?

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST FIGHT OF THE '90s: CHAVEZ-TAYLOR I; CARBAJAL-GONZALEZ I; BENN-McCLELLAN; DOUGLAS-TYSON; OR BOWE-HOLYFIELD I?

Chavez-Taylor I 25%
Douglas-Tyson 25%
Bowe-Holyfield I 21%
Carbajal-Gonzalez I 17%
Benn-McClellan 12%

A good race, with Douglas-Tyson faring far better than we expected. Will the second half of the decade produce five title fights that will match this quintet? Let's hope so.

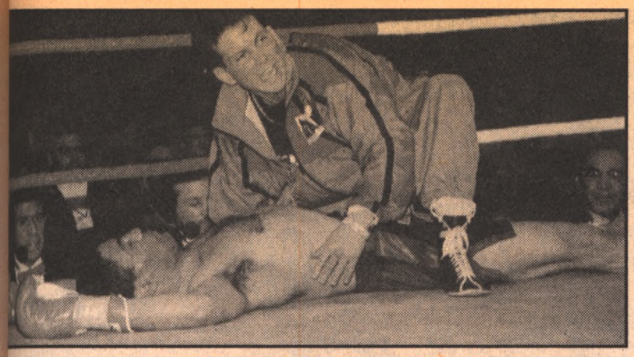


Taylor trades with Chavez

Q: IN LUIS SANTANA-TERRY NORRIS I, WAS SANTANA FAKING OR BADLY HURT AFTER BEING FOULED?

Faking 80%
Badly Hurt 20%

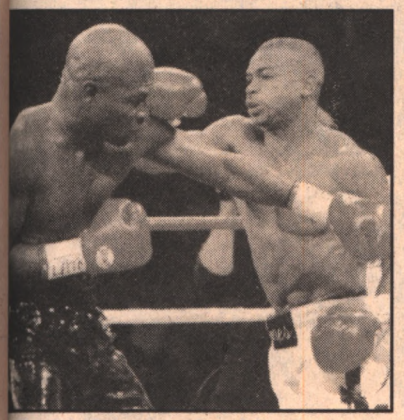
And the winner for the 1994 Oscar for Best Actor is ... If Santana was indeed milking the moment, as four of every five voters believe, it was the smartest move of his life; it landed the faded veteran two more title fights with Norris, and the two biggest paydays of his career. Hey, Luis, when you decide to hang 'em up, why not join your manager, Grant Elvis Phillips, in Hollywood?



Was Santana milking the moment?

Q: WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE ASSET A FIGHTER CAN POSSESS?

ickness/Speed	13%
wer	11%
sire/Heart	10%
ility/Skill	9%
Good Jab	7%
Strong Chin	6%
od Management	6%
dication/Discipline	5%
hers	33%



For Roy Jones, speed is of the essence

The smart-alecks jumped all over this one, penciling in answers like "a big bank account," "knowing when to quit," and "a good lawyer." Physical attributes led the way, with only one intangible, "desire/heart," near the top. What does it say about boxing that only one voter answered "a good trainer"?

Q: WOULD YOU BLAME THE JIMMY GARCIA TRAGEDY ON REFEREE MITCH HALPERN AND R. FLIP HOMANSKY FOR ALLOWING HE BOUT TO CONTINUE; BOB ARUM OR PROMOTING A MISMATCH; THE BC FOR SANCTIONING THE BOUT; ARCIA'S CORNER FOR FAILING TO HROW IN THE TOWEL; ALL OF THE BOVE; OR NO ONE SHOULD BE LAMED?

All of the Above	37%
Garcia's Corner	21%
No One to Blame	20%
WBC	10%
Halpern/Homansky	6%
Arum	6%

While 37 percent of the voters spread the blame, a significant 20 percent pointed no fingers. Was Garcia's death just one of those things, a tragedy in a sport where fatalities are inevitable? No easy answers here.

Who was to blame for the tragedy of Jimmy Garcia?

Q: IF THE ALI-FRAZIER-FOREMAN ERA MERITS A 10, RANK TODAY'S HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION ON A SCALE FROM 1 TO 10.

1	2%
2	8%
3	13%
4	10%
5	21%
6	12%
7	16%
8	7%
9	1%
10	1%
Others	9%

We know a fighter is only as good as his last fight. Can the same be said of an entire division? With a lineup including Riddick Bowe, Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis, Michael Moorer, Oliver McCall, Tommy Morrison, and a comebacking Mike Tyson, we don't think the heavyweights are suffering. The insiders disagreed, with 54 percent of the voters scoring the division a five or less. Are these people aware that Ron Lyle is active again?

Note: The "others" votes included fractions. ■

JESSE JAMES HUGHES

The Mysterious Death Of An Outlaw Boxer

By Tommy Deas Jr.

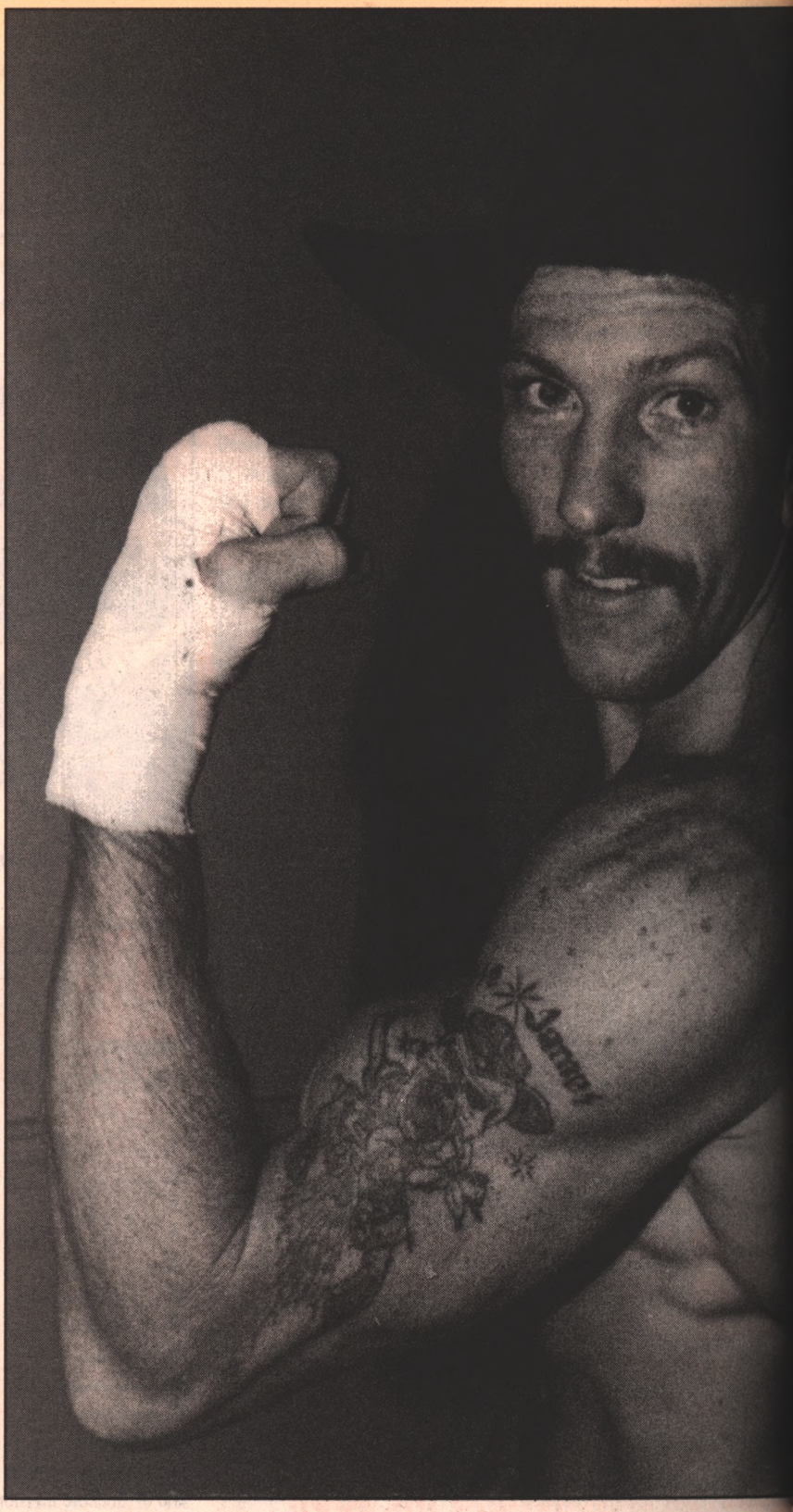


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

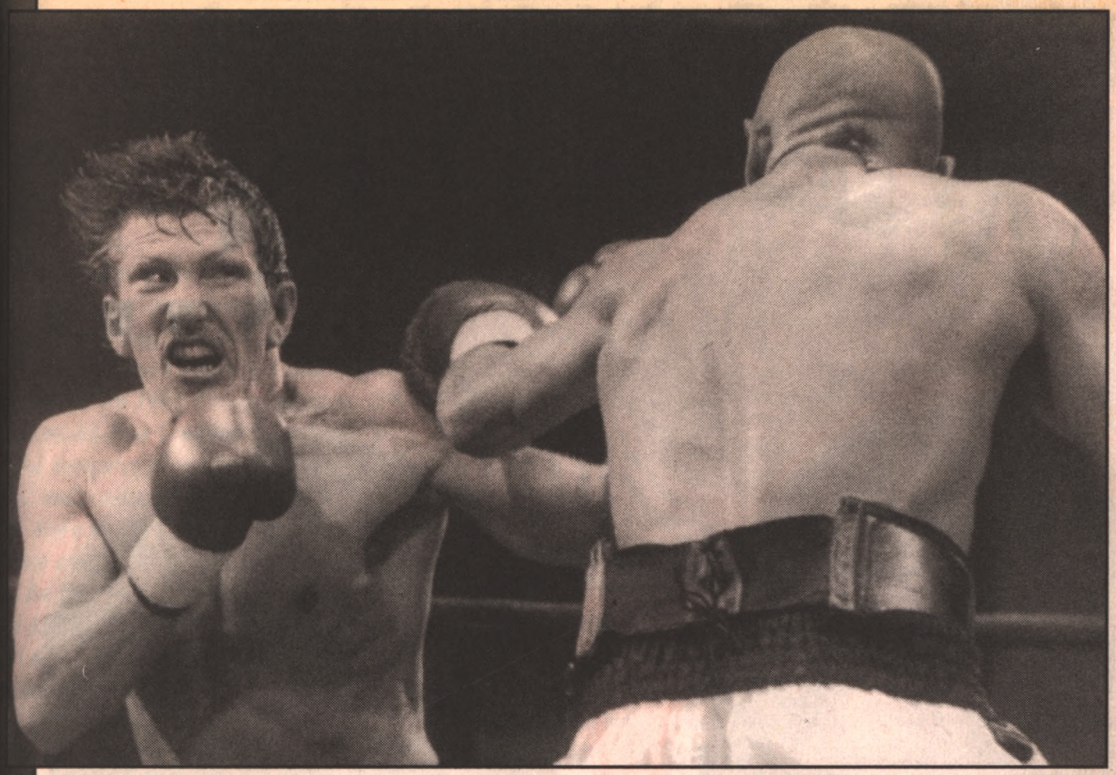
The last time he was seen in a Mobile boxing gym, James Hughes was in good spirits. He had worked out on a Monday afternoon, picking up trainer Wallace Dinkins en route, and dropping the trainer off on the way home early that evening. He stopped in to look at photos taken by Dinkins' wife of his knockout of Nick Rupa, the latest in a series of action-packed cable-TV bouts that had earned the USBA welterweight champion a cult following rivaling anyone in the sport.

Hughes then headed home, changed clothes, and went out for the evening.

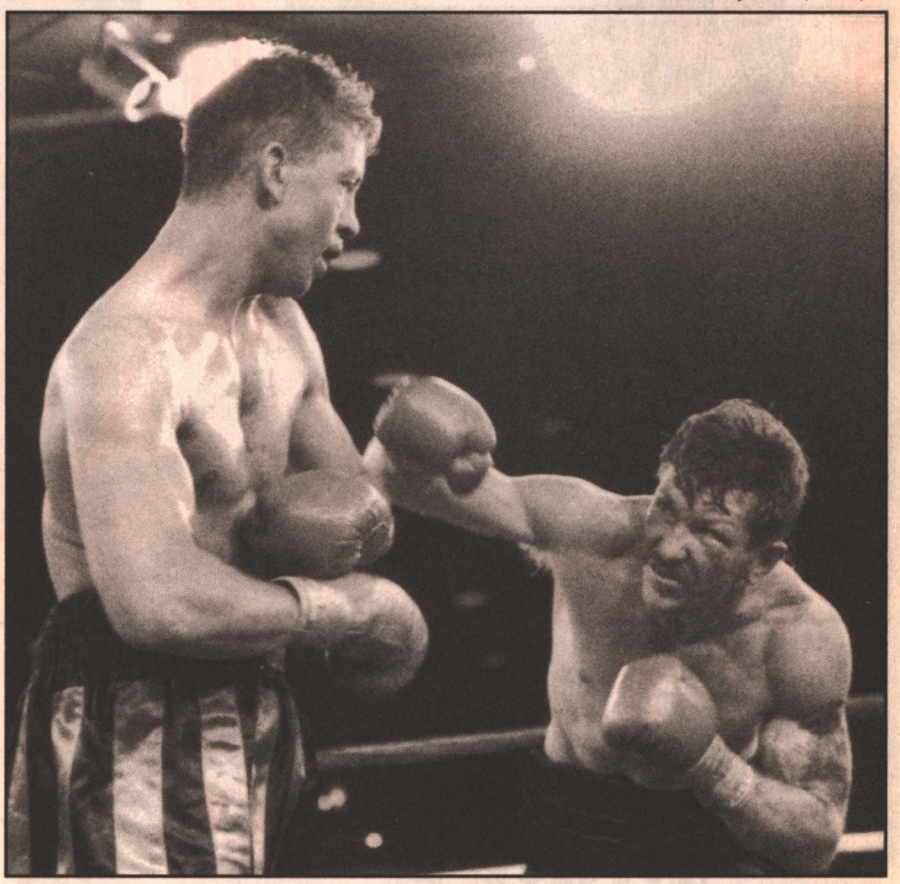
A still photo from an automatic teller machine taken the next morning, when he withdrew $100, would be the last documented sighting of Hughes. Eleven days later, when his decomposed body was fished out from under 3½ feet in a remote marshland area near his home of Mobile, Alabama, the mystery of Hughes' death was only beginning.

What was not found with the body were the keys to Hughes' abandoned truck, his wallet, his money, and a watch that was clearly visible on his wrist in the bank photo believed to have been taken only hours before he died.

At press time, no arrests had been made in the case, nor has any cause of death been released. According to an autopsy performed by the state medical examiner's office, traces of cocaine were found in his system and bruises were found on the side of his head and in the throat area. The State forensics department was



Perhaps "The Outlaw's" most inspired come-from-behind victory was a 10th-round kayo of hot prospect Adrian Stone in April (left). Hughes began his unlikely run toward the top of the welterweight rankings by stopping previously undefeated Tocker Pudwill in May 1994 (below).



still awaiting test results at press time.

"To my knowledge, they haven't determined the cause of death," said the fighter's father, Jerry Hughes. "We really don't know anything other than just that he's dead. All I have to go on is their word that they're working on some things."

Things were looking up for the 29-year-old ex-con boxer, whose roughhouse ways and willingness to wade through an opponent's attack to pull out improbable victories had him in the top 10 and perhaps on the verge of a shot at IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad. Jerry Tillman, Hughes' manager and co-trainer, indicated negotiations for a $300,000 payday against Trinidad were ongoing up until the days leading to his disappearance.

Hughes had just signed for an August date on ESPN against Buck Smith. He had a hometown tuneup ut lined up after that, and was hoping to fight r the world title by mid-fall.

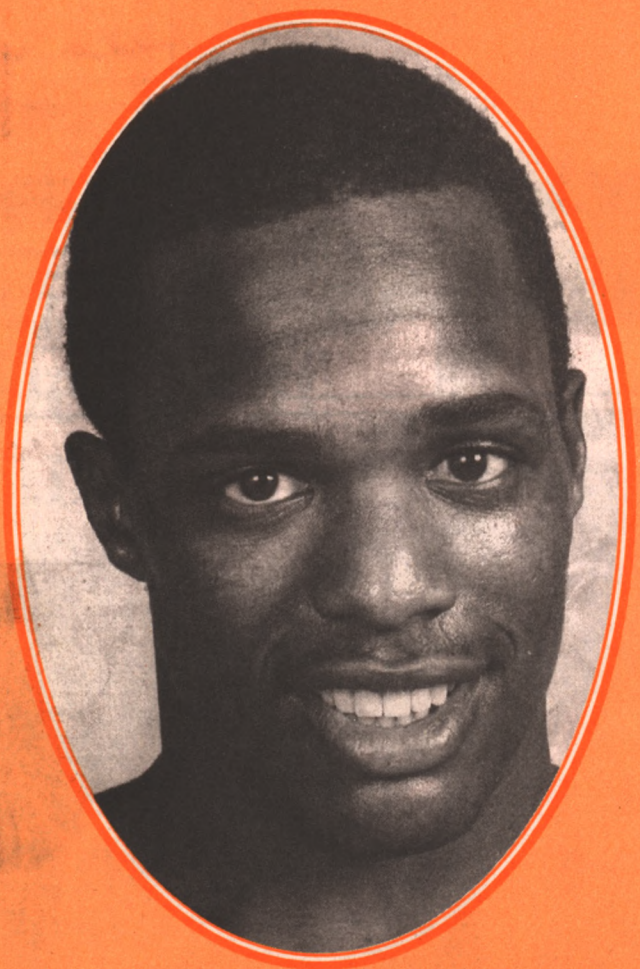
"The day he left me, he was straight and an and in a good mood," Dinkins said. "The xt day, I believe he was murdered.

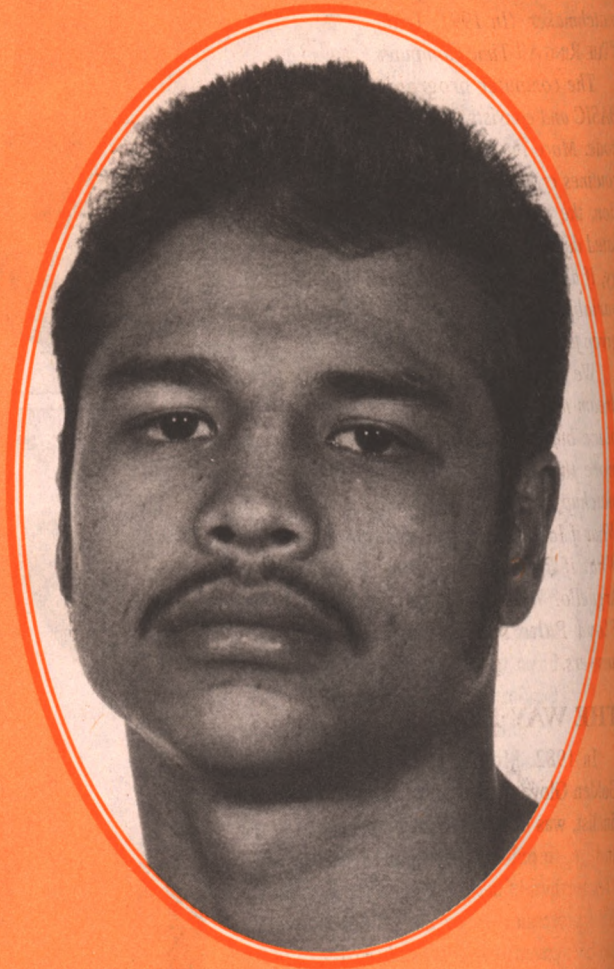
"He was tickled that he had a $15,000 fight coming up. He had a light workout in the gym, just to loosen up. He jumped a little rope, hit the mitts. We came back to my house. He looked at the pictures my wife took at the Rupa fight, and we gave him a couple.

"He was the toughest fighter I ever worked with. James was not an angel, and I'm not trying

(Continued on page 71)

WHAT IF...





DAVEY MOORE vs. TONY AYALA JR.

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, and promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that happens, we're left with our imaginations, which makes for never-ending conjecture and delightful debate.

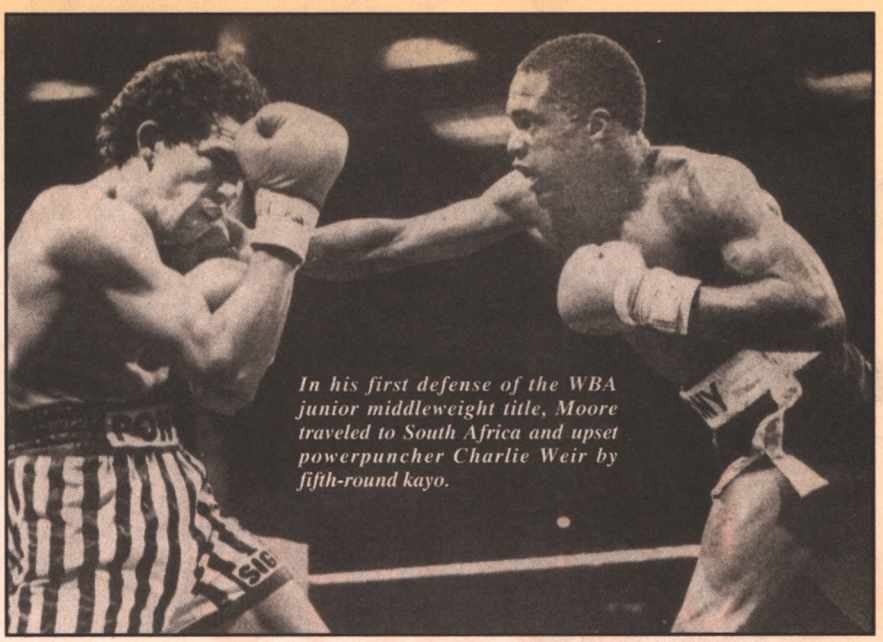
With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's foremost computer programmer, and TKO Professional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, THE RING *has once again decided to play matchmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "*THE RING *All-Time Computer Tournament.")*

The computer program runs in compiled BASIC and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two-dozen routines and subroutines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given fight.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of dream matchups, fights that could have taken place but never did. His program considers more than 100 variables, and he runs the matchups through his computer 20 times each. What if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? What if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.

THE WAY IT WAS

In 1982, Moore, a four-time New York Golden Glove winner and Olympic Trials semifinalist, was one of boxing's rising young stars and a member of NBC's illustrious "Tomorrow's Champions" stable. With only eight professional bouts on his ledger, Moore had been given a shot at Tadashi Mihara's WBA junior middleweight crown. No one was overly surprised when the precocious and powerful Moore stopped the limited Mihara in the sixth round. The surprise came when Moore, in his ninth bout and first title defense, destroyed highly regarded South African powerpuncher Charlie Weir. For political reasons, Mihara had refused to fight Weir in Africa. Part of Moore's title shot deal was an unofficial understanding that should he defeat Mihara, he would go into Weir's backyard and put the title on the line. Moore entered the contest against Weir as the underdog. Five rounds later, he had gained legitimacy after bouncing the challenger off the canvas like a basketball.

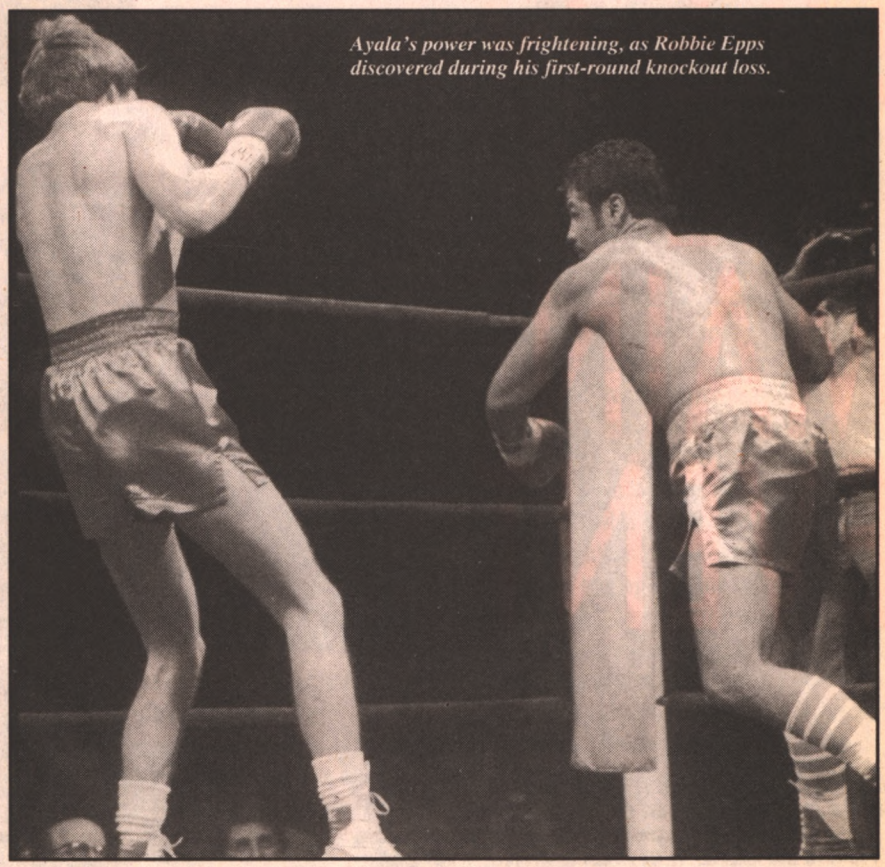


In his first defense of the WBA junior middleweight title, Moore traveled to South Africa and upset powerpuncher Charlie Weir by fifth-round kayo.

Moore quickly solidified his position as WBA champion by taking out former titleholder Ayub Kalule in 10 hotly contested rounds.

When the new year debuted, Moore made his third defense, facing bomber Gary Guiden. The New York papers—Moore was from the Bronx—didn't bother to carry a preview of the fight. Here was a hometown boy, a champion from one of boxing's hotbeds, a flashy and entertaining slugger with nine knockouts in 12 fights (the nine kayos having come in a row), and Moore couldn't find his name in the agate type. Something was wrong. Part of that something—actually a some*one*—was an even more dazzling and powerful junior middleweight by the name of Tony Ayala Jr.

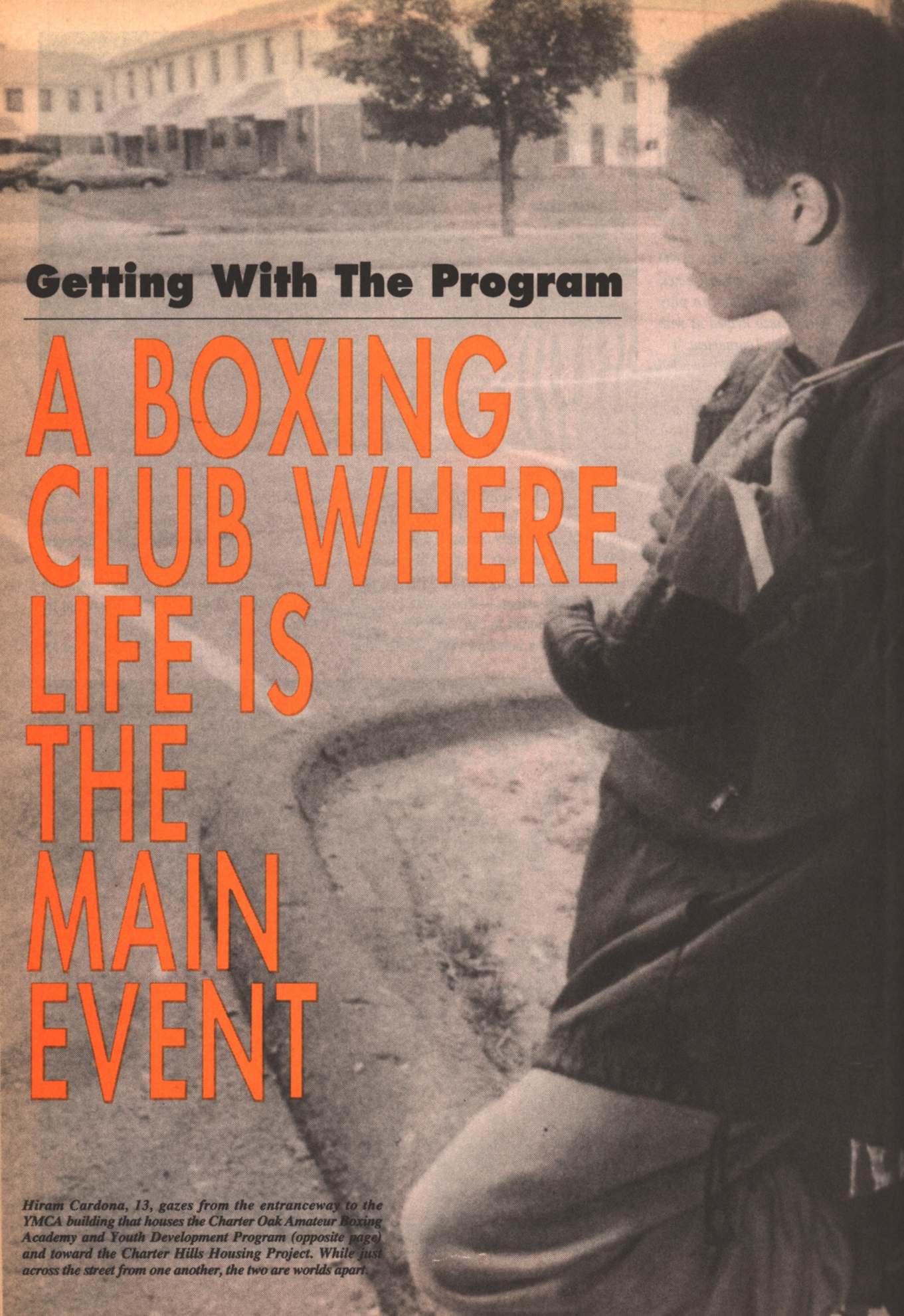
(Continued on page 72)



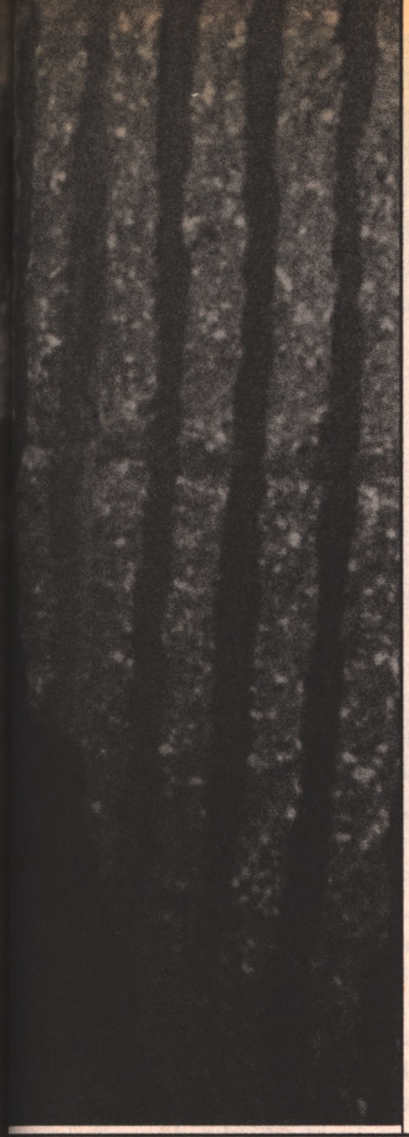
Ayala's power was frightening, as Robbie Epps discovered during his first-round knockout loss.

Getting With The Program

A BOXING CLUB WHERE LIFE IS THE MAIN EVENT



Hiram Cardona, 13, gazes from the entranceway to the YMCA building that houses the Charter Oak Amateur Boxing Academy and Youth Development Program (opposite page) and toward the Charter Hills Housing Project. While just across the street from one another, the two are worlds apart.



By Bryan Ethier

Richard Walker stood before the Fountain of Youth and watched pensively as an unforgiving auburn sun began to set on his childhood and his age of innocence.

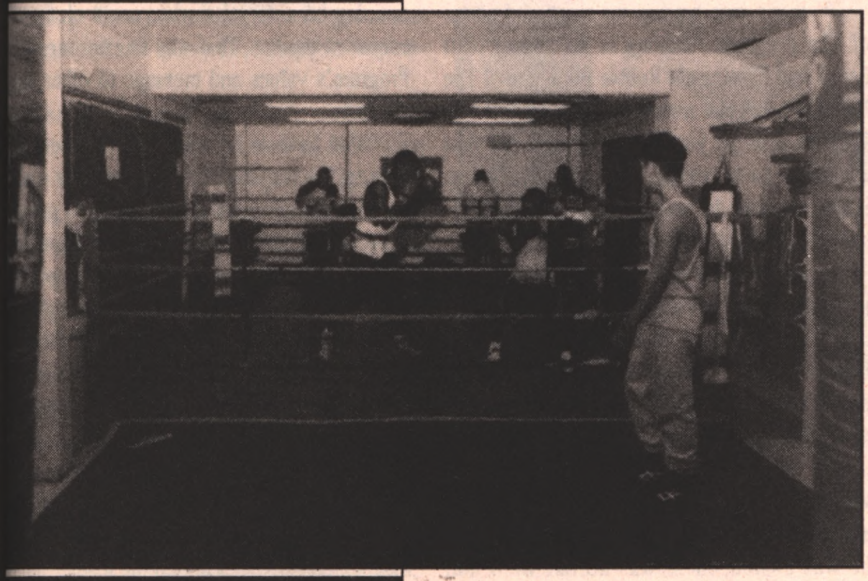
It was the night of his senior high school prom.

"It means the end of the old," Walker sighed, his eyes as big and brown as chestnuts, and glimmering with a mixture of wonder and regret.

It seemed fitting that this 18-year-old amateur boxer prepared for his ultimate high school social affair not at his home, but in the dusty, sun-drenched parking lot of a Hartford, Connecticut, Housing Authority YMCA Youth Development Building. Crammed inside this humble facility is a place he and 34 of his teammates have called Home, The Oasis, or The Fountain of Youth.

It is Hartford's Charter Oak Amateur Boxing Academy and Youth Development Program, a.k.a. The Program.

Founded in 1988 by John Callas, an amateur boxer and former boxing head coach at Central Connecticut State University, The Program uses Olympic-style boxing to reach high-risk inner city boys and young men. Operating under the rules of USA Boxing, the club affords its members, ages eight to 23, the opportunity to compete in a host of state, regional, and national tournaments, including Golden Gloves, Silver Mittens, Junior Olympic Championships, and the USA Boxing Championships.



But as Walker and the other boxers have discovered, The Program is more than a training ground for fighters. For many of its members it is sanctuary from the streets, from the drugs, from the thieves. For Walker, The Program has served as a conduit to his African heritage and to his soul.

"I would do this any day. I would skip the reception to be here," he said.

In addition to teaching the nuances of the sport to its members, The Program also offers a variety of personal, social, and life skills courses during its summer-long Champions of Life program. Thus, when boxers aren't practicing their jabs, they're learning about self-esteem and the dangers of drugs, promiscuity, and AIDS. Here, members are taught how to correctly apply for college or for a job. And how to fish for trout or raft on a raging Connecticut river.

Boxing gets them through the doors; The Program gets them through life.

"Sports is an excellent vehicle, especially for kids who can be difficult to reach," said Callas, 31, also the USA Boxing chairman of Junior Olympic activities in Connecticut. "Sports is an innovative way to do that, to teach self-confidence, self-esteem, work ethic, the whole bit. I think boxing is second to none as far as a teaching vehicle of life because it's such a difficult, demanding sport. It takes a total life investment, and the payoffs are reflective of that. These kids have skipped over their age of innocence."

Located in the Charter Oak Terrace Project, The Program is an oasis amidst the carnage of a neighborhood war zone. Each time a boxer emerges from the YMCA building that houses the gym, he is met with a vista of turmoil and despair: the ghetto.

Rows upon rows of barracks-like houses crush upon each other, making privacy a novelty. Windows are covered with bars to protect tenants from the Drug Lords, War Lords, and Gang Lords. Adults huddle on cramped front steps, their eyes glassy with apathy or despair. It's no wonder: Last year, eight murders and 238 drug-related arrests were recorded there.

Some of the boxers live in the Charter Oak projects. For others, such as Walker, who grew up in suburban South Windsor, the ghetto serves as a reminder of what his life *could* have been had he not met Callas.

"I think of boxing as a metaphor for the search I've used," he said. "It was a concrete thing I had."

Walker's parents were divorced when he was 13. Two years later, his 16-year-old brother Michael contracted encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain that has resulted in aberrant behavior.

"I was losing him [Michael] and the Coach

Photos by Alan Chaniewski

Robbie Ford has been listening to program founder and director "Coach" John Callas' advice for seven years, since he twice ran away from his broken home at age 15. Ford now attends Central Connecticut State College, where he is studying to be either a social worker or a teacher.

was there. He was someone to go to," said Walker, a 1993 Region I and New England 165-pound Junior Olympic champion. "Boxing was something to concentrate on."

Callas, or Coach, as he is fondly referred to, was there when Walker needed him most, at the 1994 Junior Olympic National Championships, held at Gulfport, Mississippi. On the day of the tournament weigh-in, Walker came down with an agonizing case of chicken pox. As the pox spread, Walker's shot at national boxing recognition dissolved into a dream.

"What followed," recalled Callas, "was our talking and counseling him and telling him that certain things are within your power and certain things are not."

Walker has taken The Program's lessons to heart. He has learned to master his own destiny. This fall he will study history at Hartford's Trinity College. He will look to the past to find a solution for the ghetto's problems of the present and future. Perhaps he will once again pick up his boxing gloves.

"I see people who need help," Walker observed. "I see drug dealers and kids who are going to grow up to be drug dealers. I see the jails that are being built now that these kids are going to be in. I feel that it is my duty to go to school, learn about my culture, and come back here to help."

Walker's case typifies the reach and power of The Program. "Boxing is just a part of it here," said 22-year-old Robbie Ford, one of The Program's original members. "The goal of The Program is to get you to go to school, get your education, go to college, and get a job. Boxing is something to do, something to keep the kids' attention, so they can listen."

Ford, who grew up in the Charter Oak projects, turned to The Program when he was 15.

"I had a pretty normal childhood," he laughed bitterly. "I had a father who sold drugs; he got busted and spent time in jail. My father never quit a job; he was a hard worker. He went to sell drugs to feed the family. My mother would go off on me and my sister physically and emotionally. My dad did everything, but when he was busted, there was no one there but Coach."

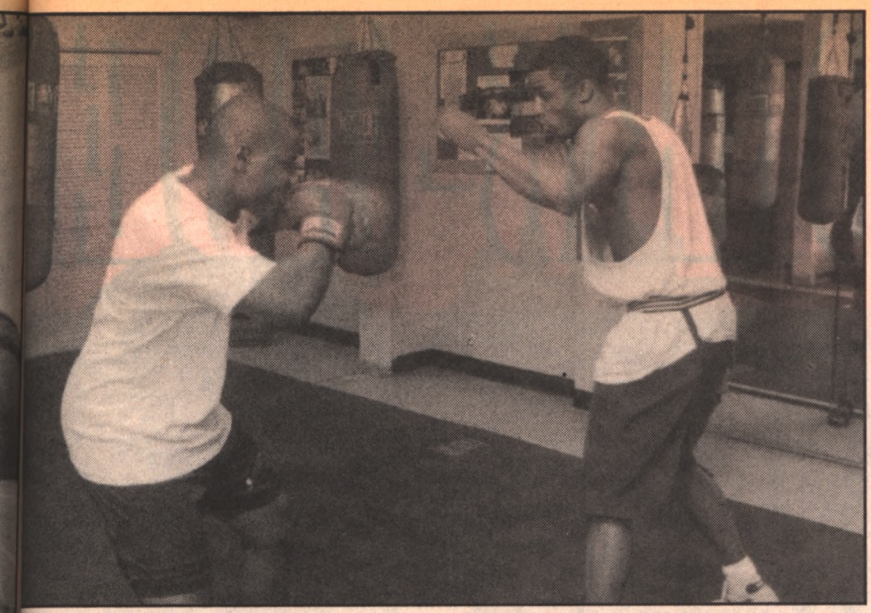
Callas was there seven years ago when Ford twice ran away from home. He was then, as he is now, a surrogate father, teacher, and disciplinarian.

Thanks to Callas' guidance, Ford is now married and living in the north end of Hartford. He will continue his college education at Central Connecticut State University, and promises to one day be a social worker or an elementary education teacher. That way he can impart The Program's values and message to other inner-city kids.

"You have to be a survivor to succeed in boxing," concluded Callas. "It's the closest thing to war. It's the closest thing to going in there and facing death ... these analogies with life are tenfold. I tell them they are going to have to learn to lose gracefully. You're going to have ups and downs in life, just like in the ring."

In a way, it's ironic that Callas started his own gym and youth program. Unlike most of his students, he grew up in a stable family and had a typical childhood and adolescence. After a six-year career as an amateur boxer and a three-year term as boxing coach at Central Connecticut State University, he hung up the leather mittens in 1988 to focus on a career as a social worker for the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services.

His job, however, took him into the ghetto, to dysfunctional families, where fathers pushed crack cocaine to pay the bills and kids were



Richard Walker, who made it all the way to the 1994 Junior Olympic National Championships before pulling out of the tournament with chicken pox, spars with Ford. "I see the jails that are being built now that these kids are going to be in," said Walker, who attends Trinity College. "I feel that it is my duty to go to school, learn about my culture, and come back here to help."

beaten physically and battered emotionally.

He knew he had to do something to try to combat the strife he encountered daily. With the support of the Hartford Housing Authority, Callas opened the Charter Oak gym in October 1988, utilizing space within the Hartford Housing Authority YMCA Youth Development Building. Two years later, The Program was incorporated as a non-stock, non-profit corporation.

The grass roots program relies on corporate and personal donations, as well as foundation grants to provide the $50,000 per year it takes to operate. The hours are long, but with his wife, Dionesia, handling most of the administration and travel duties, Callas gets by. "It's a labor of love," he said.

The rules are few. Boxers must train three times a week. They cannot take drugs, and they must attend school. In return, The Program acts as a case manager for each member, addressing his unique needs. Should a student need help at school, Callas will talk to his teacher. If he needs counseling, as some do, Callas will obtain it.

"Our goal is not to have them make the pros," he explained. "It is to arm the kids and have them learn to be positive people in society."

The gym area is modest, some 30 by 50 feet. In the summer, when the Academy is its busiest, some 35 boxers can work out comfortably. There is adequate space for sparring, and heavybags and speedbags are placed throughout the room. Of course, no boxing gym would be complete without a regulation-sized ring.

The gym is filled with symbols that underscore the purpose of The Program. Posters adorn the walls warning boxers of the dangers of drugs. Mirrors run the length of one wall. There is no running from oneself here. Every time a boxer looks in the mirror, he is confronted with himself, his past, and his present identity.

Hiram Cardona, 13, knows what it is to come to grips with one's past. Four years ago he lost his age of innocence. On May 22, 1991, he and his seven-year-old brother, Orlando, watched as their stepfather used a machete to murder their mother.

Cardona can talk about the tragedy now. Two years of therapy, an ocean of shed tears, and the tutelage and love of Callas have helped revive an all but lost childhood.

"I want to be somebody," said Cardona. "I want to be successful."

A 75-pound intermediate Junior Olympic fighter, Cardona was the 1994 New England Junior Olympic champion and Region I Junior Olympic titleholder. But Cardona's most precious victories have come in the classroom. He recently graduated from eighth grade—no small feat, considering he nearly gave up the books after his mother's death. Now an honor roll student, Cardona this fall will take special college prep courses at Hartford Public High.

Dan Peck laces up the gloves for Cardona, the 75-pound 1994 New England Junior Olympic champion and Region I Junior Olympic titleholder. Among the many of life's lessons the young men and kids learn at this club is that there is always someone to turn to who cares.

Like Walker, Ford, and the other older boxers, Cardona is a mentor to his proteges.

"When I come into the ring, there's kids

(Continued on page 77)

THE NORRIS-VADEN

A Case Of Mutual Hatred

By Steve Farhood

"I have no respect for Paul. I think he's a pussy. He's just one of the lowest people on earth. When we meet in the ring, I'll try to kill him."
–"Terrible" Terry Norris on junior middleweight champion Paul Vaden

"Terry is ignorant and personality-free. And I'm not alone on that. When his name comes up, people always end by saying, ... 'But Orlin is very nice.'"
–Paul "The Ultimate" Vaden on junior middleweight champion Terry Norris

It's easy to envision Simon Brown and Maurice Blocker, the last co-champions from the same city to engage in a unification bout, sharing a beer and trading war stories somewhere in suburban Maryland. Brown might begin by toasting his best buddy, then adding, "Damn, Mo, if you had just kept that jab in my face, you might've pulled it out." And "The Thin Man," nursing a Bud Lite, might respond, "Yeah, Simon, I know. But that body attack of yours ... Your left hook was gonna break me in half."

If Terry Norris and Paul Vaden, co-junior middleweight champions and bitter San Diego rivals, share a brew or two a few years from now, the conversation will be a bit different. "Yo, Paul, you suck," Terry might begin. "Hey, Terry, up yours," Paul might respond. Kiss and make up? They're more likely to crack beer bottles over each other's heads and then reach for heavier artillery.

On November 4, WBC champion Norris and IBF titlist Vaden will clash on the Tyson-Mathis undercard at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. It's fitting the bout, boxing's first unification since Chiquita Gonzalez-Michael Carbajal I in March 1993, will be televised on

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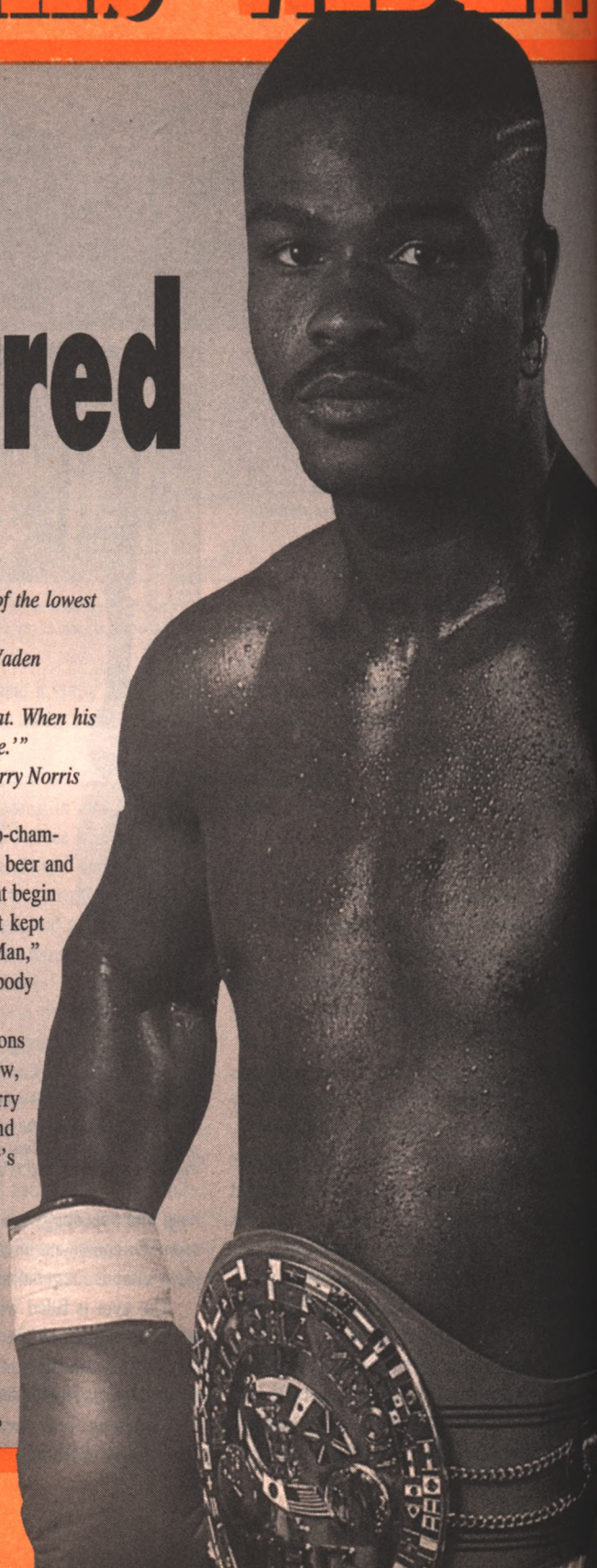


Photo by Al Bello

S H O W D O W N

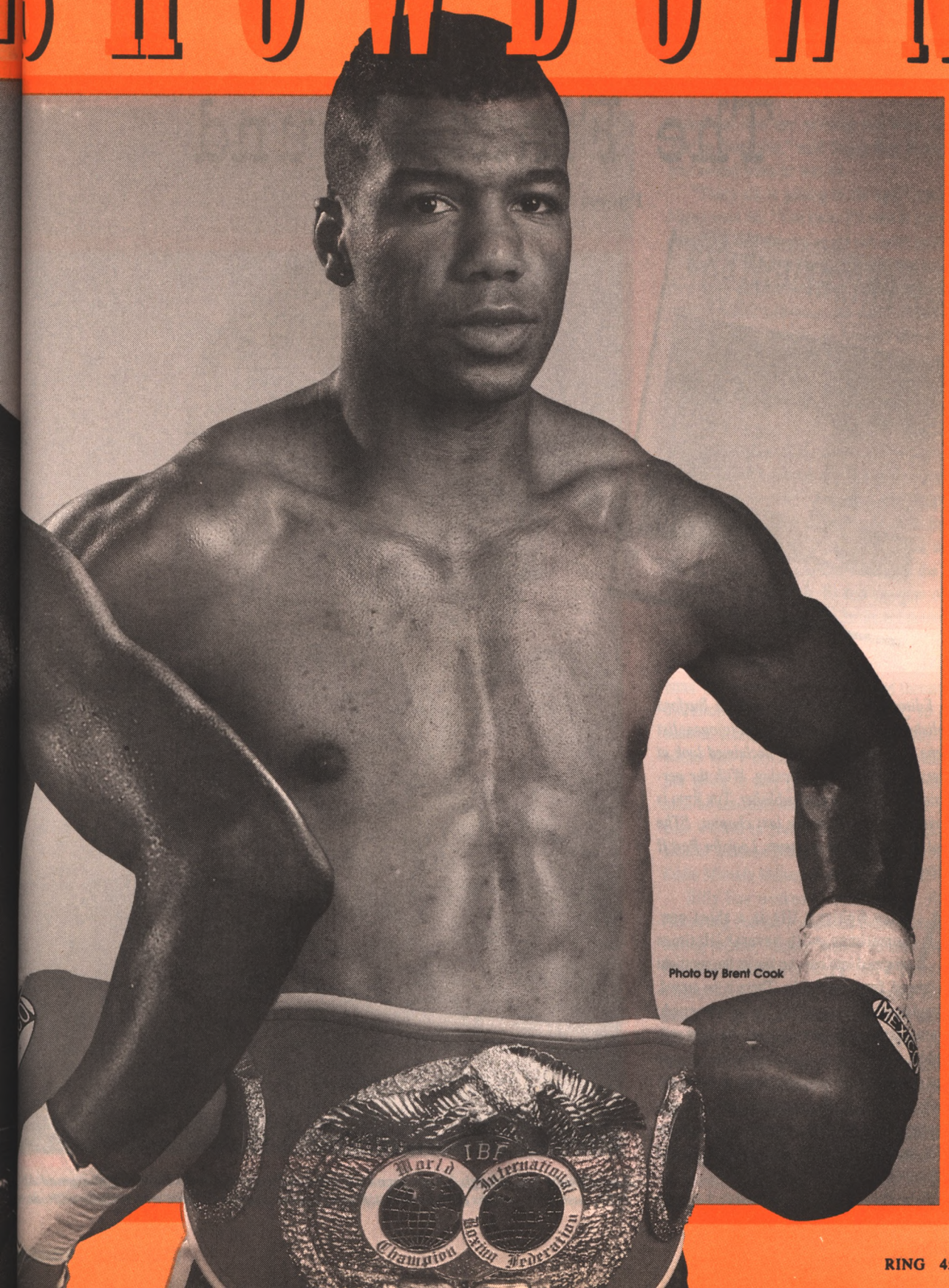
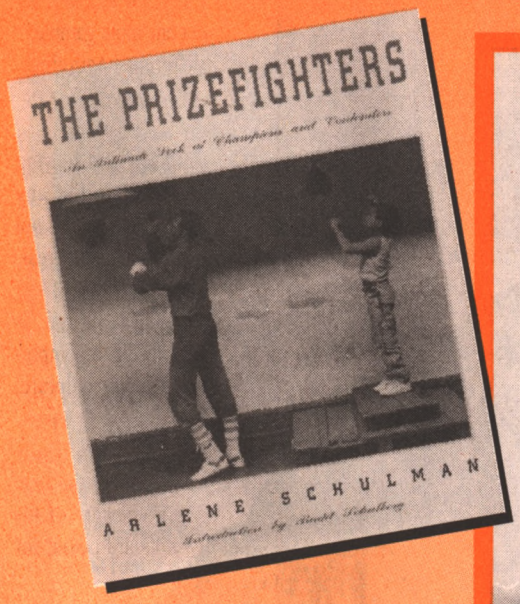


Photo by Brent Cook

THE PRIZE

The Final Round

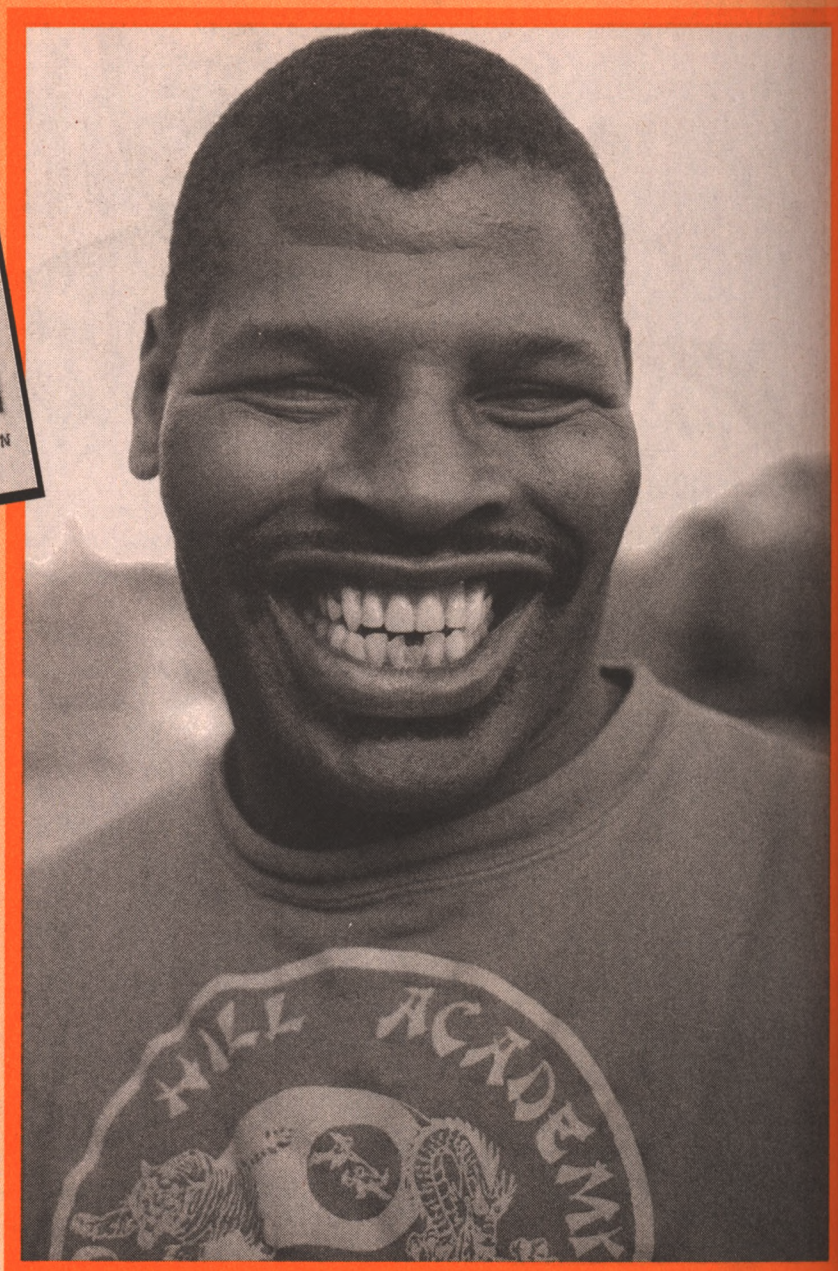
Photos & Text by Arlene Schulman



Editor's Note: In 1994, Lyons & Burford published ***The Prizefighters,*** *photojournalist Arlene Schulman's critically acclaimed look at boxers and the world of boxing. With the permission of the author and publisher,* THE RING *is reprinting portions of the last chapter, "The Final Round," in two segments. Look for Part II in next month's issue.*

A prize fighter's life is a short one. Sometimes, with several lifetimes wrapped into one, he leaves the spotlight bewildered, forgotten, broke. There is no crowd, no applause, no one waiting for an autograph; the toughest men in the ring leave the most vulnerable. The daily routine and incentives are gone, and so is the manager who planned the details. And, as in Shakespeare's plays, it is a tragedy; the prize fighter, a man of superior skills, humbled, overcome by one large and stubborn obstacle: himself.

"You always say, 'I'll quit when I start to



Leon Spinks has struggled ever since losing the world heavyweight title to Muhammad Ali in 1978, just seven months after he won it. But he's never stopped smiling, with teeth or without.

FIGHTERS

Despite suffering from Parkinson's Syndrome, Muhammad Ali never refuses to sign an autograph. "The Greatest" still has the magic touch, especially with children.

slide,' and then one morning you wake up and you've done slid," said Sugar Ray Robinson, who retired when he was 44.

"Thirty-six is getting to the age," remarked Muhammad Ali. "You know it's time to leave, but something tells you you've got one more gamble."

Just as fighters have different beginnings, they have different endings. The image of the retired boxer can be a sad one: of fortunes squandered, mumbling to himself and touring the gyms, looking for a handout. But, like any stereotype, there is some truth to it, and it is not difficult to find a man to fit that image. To realize that this man, once the champion of the world, has been reduced to a mere mortal, is often more difficult for even himself to comprehend. His body, once a magnificent sculpture, turns to fat or shrivels and often bears no resemblance to what it used to be. Joe Louis was a tourist attraction at Caesars Palace; at the end, seated in a wheelchair, ill and unaware of his surroundings, he became a cardboard cutout for tourists to pose with.

Some fighters are content to live off their fame. Some turn to God. Others find themselves unsuited for anything but boxing, so they become managers and trainers. But many have settled into a myriad of occupations. Louis was just going to play golf and live off his money until he ran short and had to pay the IRS. Tony Zale worked in youth centers around Chicago. Bennie Briscoe became a sanitation worker. Eddie Mustafa Muhammad trains fighters.

Billy Fox worked in construction. Henry Armstrong became a minister; Benny Leonard a boxing referee; Mickey Walker an artist. Willie Pep does publicity work for a casino in Connecticut. Carmen Basilio worked for his brother's sausage company, became athletic director of LeMoyne College, and now makes appearances for Genesee Brewery in upstate New York. Donald Curry manages and trains fighters. Archie Moore devoted his life to helping underprivileged youth, driving a truck and picking up donations of meat and produce and delivering it to families. Named by President Reagan as special ambassador to the Watts sec-

tion of Los Angeles, Moore worked with youth groups until kids started toting Uzis. He still speaks for the United Way. Jersey Joe Walcott became a boxing commissioner. So did world heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson, who trained his son Tracy. Jack Dempsey owned a restaurant. Maxie Rosenbloom, who had 299 fights, became an actor and owner of a nightclub called Slapsie Maxie's. George Chuvalo sold real estate and has his own TV show in Canada. Sean O'Grady and Barry McGuigan became television commentators. Howard Davis Jr. became a construction worker, vitamin salesman, and boxing trainer; Leo Randolph, a truck driver, and Max Schmeling the owner of a Coca-Cola distributorship in Germany. Hilmer Kenty owns his own electronics parts company in Detroit, Kenty Electronics. Michael Olajide

Willie Pep and Alexis Arguello, hall of famers who won the world featherweight title 32 years apart, share a moment in Canastota, New York.

t. teaches his own blend of boxing and aero-ics. Joey Giardello works with the mentally ndicapped. Vito Antuofermo owned Champ's izza, made a few movies, and attempted to ake a comeback. Primo Carnera became a suc-ssful wrestler; Eder Jofre, a politician in Sao Paulo; and Billy Backus, a deputy commissioner of the New York State Athletic Commission, is a supervisor for Marcy Prison in upstate New York.

In the old days, from the late-1800s to the early-1900s, some, like John L. Sullivan and Jim Corbett, toured the vaudeville circuit. The next generation showed up in bit parts in movies, from Barney Ross and Rosenbloom to Victor McLaglen, who fought an exhibition against Jack Johnson and later won an Academy Award as Best Actor for *The Informer*. Lou Nova became a stage and screen actor, Sugar Ray Robinson sang and danced a bit on television, but his name was greater than his talent in between retirements. Randall "Tex" Cobb makes movies and commercials.

Mark Breland studies acting and has performed in television and in films. Ray Mancini, a bit actor in the movies, onstage and on television, has set up his own production company. George Foreman starred as himself in a weekly sitcom.

World middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler now speaks with an Italian accent and lives in Italy, where he has appeared in several movies. "I miss being punched. Seriously," he insisted, still bald and still in shape. "I really love the art of boxing, hitting the other guy. And it's the pain, too!" he added. "It's the pain that really helps you. But I said, 'ciao.' I don't want to work in a hotel, like Joe Louis."

Carlos Monzon sat in prison, serving time for killing his girlfriend. Mike Tyson, Trevor Berbick, and Tony Ayala Jr. were convicted of rape, John Tate of possession of drugs. "Bad dream?" asked Ayala, a former junior middleweight contender. "It's been too hard to be a bad dream. I don't think about what could have been. Tragedy would have occurred anyway."

They think it's going to last forever. It's easy to spend the money, but the lifestyle is difficult to maintain when the money isn't coming in anymore. Some fighters retire firmly, others reluctantly, and some more than once. A retirement without a few comebacks is rare. They find themselves fighting opponents young enough to be their sons, and losing to opponents they would have dispatched in one round years earlier, waking up the next morning, the fatigue and ache of old wounds a reminder that this is not a game for old men. When the fighting is over finally and completely, gone are the competition, the regimentation, the adulation, and the money. Boxing doesn't offer Social Security or job security. Teachers, writers, cab drivers, computer programmers, bankers, and shoe salesmen can keep teaching, writing, driving, programming, banking, and selling past the age of 65. But, on average, by the time fighters reach their early-30s, the boxing lifetime is over.

For most of the last two generations of prize fighting champions and some of their opponents—Riddick Bowe, Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Michael Carbajal, Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Julio Cesar Chavez, Pernell Whitaker, Gerry Cooney—the money has been so great from the beginning that they never had a job, never had to punch a time clock, never had to answer to a demanding boss, never had a budget. "You're lucky," Emanuel Steward, who climbed telephone poles in the middle of winter for Detroit Edison, told Thomas Hearns. "You've never had to work for a living."

The fate of all these prize fighters is still unknown.

Leonard made a workout video and does a little television commentary and casino public relations. Breland teaches a few fitness classes and trains a few dogs. Michael Spinks helps out his former promoter, Butch Lewis. Buster Douglas retired; he goes fishing and watches movies. "I never retired," Breland insisted. "The papers retired me." Usually reserved, he added that he was worried that when he retired, people would remember him as "a s____ person. Look at Sonny Liston. After you retire, who gives a s___? When you get old, someone else is going to take your place."

Cooney, the big, friendly Irish kid from the suburbs, carefully cultivated and manicured, brought a burden of hope, hype, and hoopla to the heavyweight scene, but he couldn't carry it. He lost to Larry Holmes in 1982—his trainer throwing in the towel—when a booming left hook defeated him, his concentration muddled. With a wink and a smile, Cooney, a charmer who knows all the lines, seems bewildered and uncertain of himself. "I think I stayed in it too long," he admitted. "It seems like I have luck, but it's all bad."

Cooney has managed and promoted a few fighters, and he owns a house with a swimming pool in the Hamptons on Long Island. "He knew he blew his chances," said his trainer, Victor Valle. "He could have been the greatest. Who the hell knows? A white fighter—God!" he exclaimed. "He could have controlled New

York City!"

"Money has made bums out of people," declared trainer George Benton, a fighter from the streets of Philadelphia who was so tough and fearless that he couldn't get opponents.

The story of Leon Spinks is one of the most dramatic. He came from nothing, zoomed to the top—decked in furs, tossing dollar bills, honking the horn of an expensive automobile—and plummeted back down, even farther and faster from where he began.

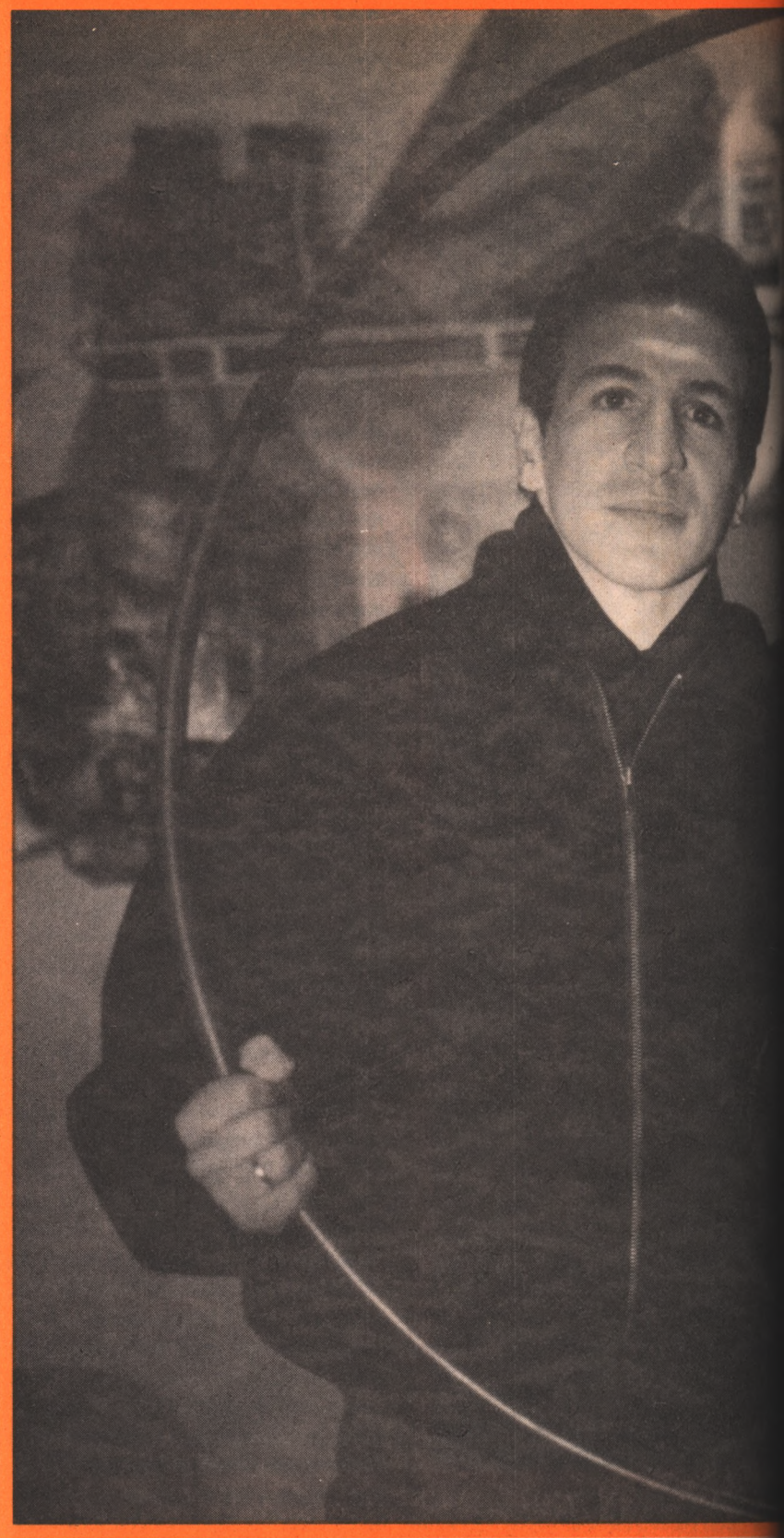
The Spinks brothers grew up poor in East St. Louis, Missouri. Their parents separated when Michael and Leon were young, and they were raised by their mother. Michael said later, "If my father had been around, I think my life could have turned out differently. Maybe I wouldn't have become a professional boxer."

All Michael Spinks wanted to do was to follow his older brother, Leon, to the gym. But Leon, three years older, always beat him. Both are 1976 Olympic gold medal winners and world champions. And there the similarity ends.

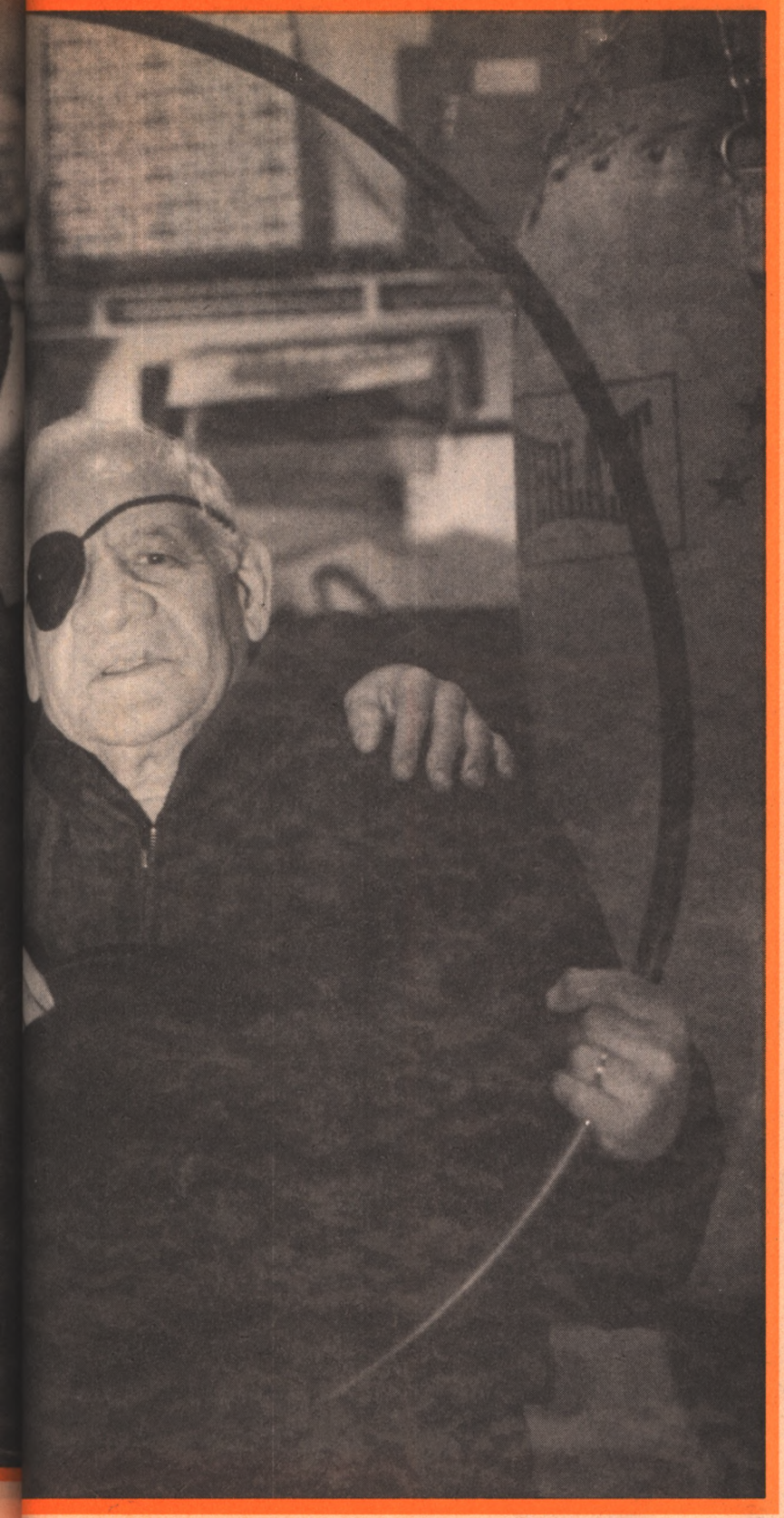
Leon joined the Marines before he turned pro in 1977. His ring style matched his personality—erratic; he looked great in some fights, awful in others. But if you pushed him around, he was easy to beat. In just his eighth fight, he stunned Muhammad Ali and everyone else by capturing Ali's world heavyweight title. Leon, the man with the toothless smile, was just 24. Trained by Benton and managed by Butch Lewis, the world was in his hands. Seven months later, Leon lost his title back to Ali.

Michael, a good boxer but one who didn't look it because of his awkwardness, beat Dwight Braxton in 1983 for the world light heavyweight title, and then Larry Holmes in 1985 for the world heavyweight title. He was knocked out by Mike Tyson in 1988. As erratic as Leon's style and personality were, Michael's moves were more cautious, his personality warm, friendly, and polite, with a knee-slapping sense of humor. He lives in Maryland with his daughter Michelle, and keeps an apartment in Philadelphia, where he lived after he first signed a managerial contract with Lewis.

Leon Spinks filed for bankruptcy in 1986, stating that all he had left from the $4.5-million he had won was a $500 wardrobe and the $1,600 a month he was earning from boxing. His championship belt auctioned, his "friends," late nights, fast women, and faster cars had consumed him. "They all moved too fast for me to pay attention to," he said. Although Leon insists that he still has his belt, a former lawyer said it was auctioned off in December 1985 to pay his bills. He said he does not ask for pity; it's his life.



After the Olympics, Lewis signed Leon to a professional contract, while Michael thought he would come home to a hero's welcome. "Mike was kind of disillusioned," Lewis said. "He just wanted a good job. They gave him a job at a major company, cleaning toilets. Were he a



A fighting family: Former world lightweight champion Ray Mancini and his father Lenny, who was denied a title shot after suffering injuries in World War II.

instructed him on how to handle his finances—which he has maintained carefully–and has him work with his fight promotions. But his brother Leon's fame and fortune evaporated. Michael observed, "Leon—if he didn't have a dime, my love would never change. I'll sleep in the streets with Leon. We were like twins in the Olympics. We used to dress alike. We were just brothers.

"I miss the days of starting out poor—me and Leon. I miss the days of being together. I've missed him. Leon … it's unfortunate that these things happen. I saw us together for life, inseparable." He inhaled deeply and let it out sadly, closing his eyes heavily.

"One day we were taking a walk across a recreation center. No one was there—it was empty. I said, 'Leon, let's box.' We boxed for two-minute rounds—three rounds. I would cover up and he would box, and then he would tire up and then I got my licks and hit him with punches, and I hit him good. I got him! I ran out of the ring, hollering, 'I kicked your ass!' This was in 1972 or 1973. I was the happiest man alive."

Leon Spinks' fiery style and desire caught the attention of Lewis, whose promotional juices started flowing at the idea of a brother team. He signed Leon to a professional contract, contacting him in the Marines and arranging for his discharge. Lewis thought he could manage Leon, but gave up just after Leon's rematch with Muhammad Ali. All at once, Lewis' voice sounds strained, angry, and amazed.

"He was living in my home with my family. I see that I'm going to be the big brother. I'm going to try and straighten out his character. He was giving me the business. He would be in and out of the bars and clubs. He would hitchhike, he would find his way, he would walk. I wanted to try and groom him. I'm out in the morning, getting gas. This guy says, 'Butch, we had a great time last night with that boxer, Leon Spinks. We took him out drinking.' I said, 'Whaaaat?'" Lewis spat out the words in disbelief. "Even during the Olympics, the team would run, and he would go maybe a block. He would go behind a clump of trees and lie down. He would splash water on his head, like he had been running."

Then Leon pulled off the biggest coup in boxing history, capturing the heavyweight championship from Ali. Lewis said, "I took a kid with seven professional fights. Here we are upsetting a guy who carried boxing on his

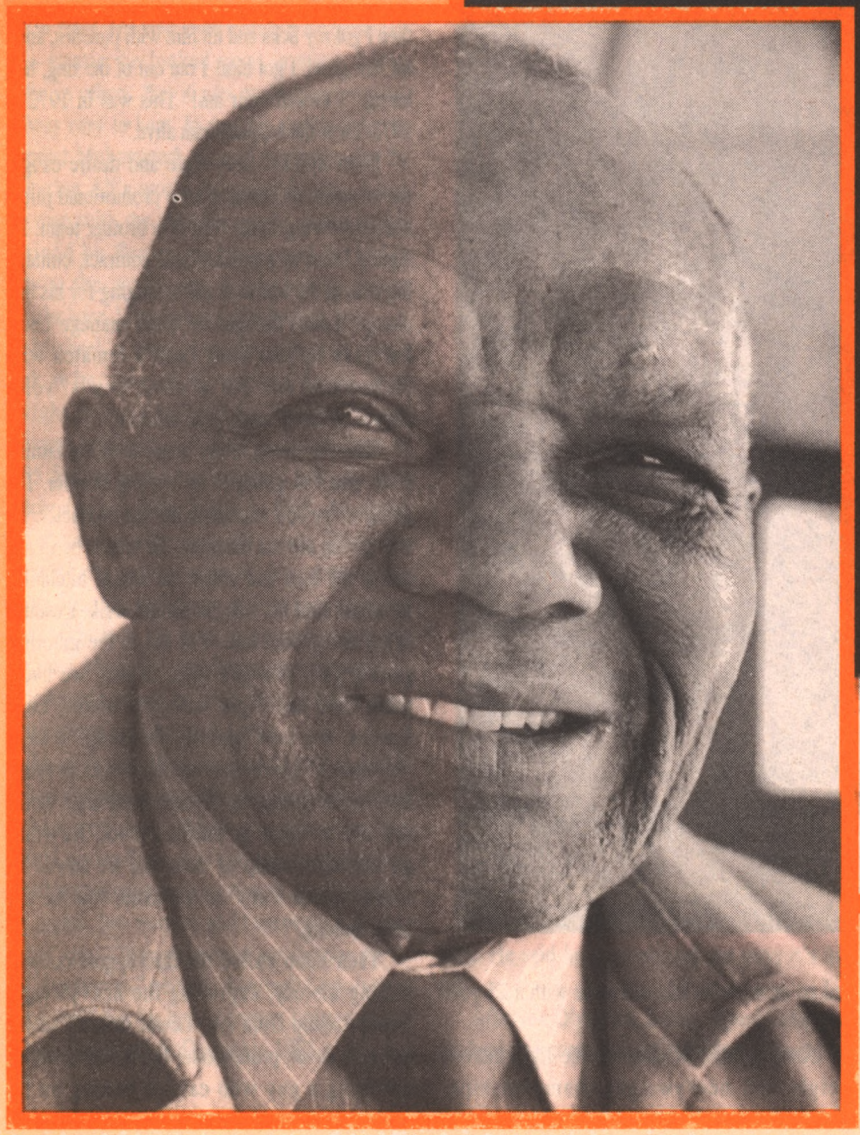
white gold medalist, they would not give him a job cleaning toilets. That pushed him over the edge. Leon wanted Mike to be with him. Mike wanted to come back to a hero's type of thing and go on with his life and retire with a 25-year watch."

Lewis guided Michael to the light heavyweight and heavyweight championships,

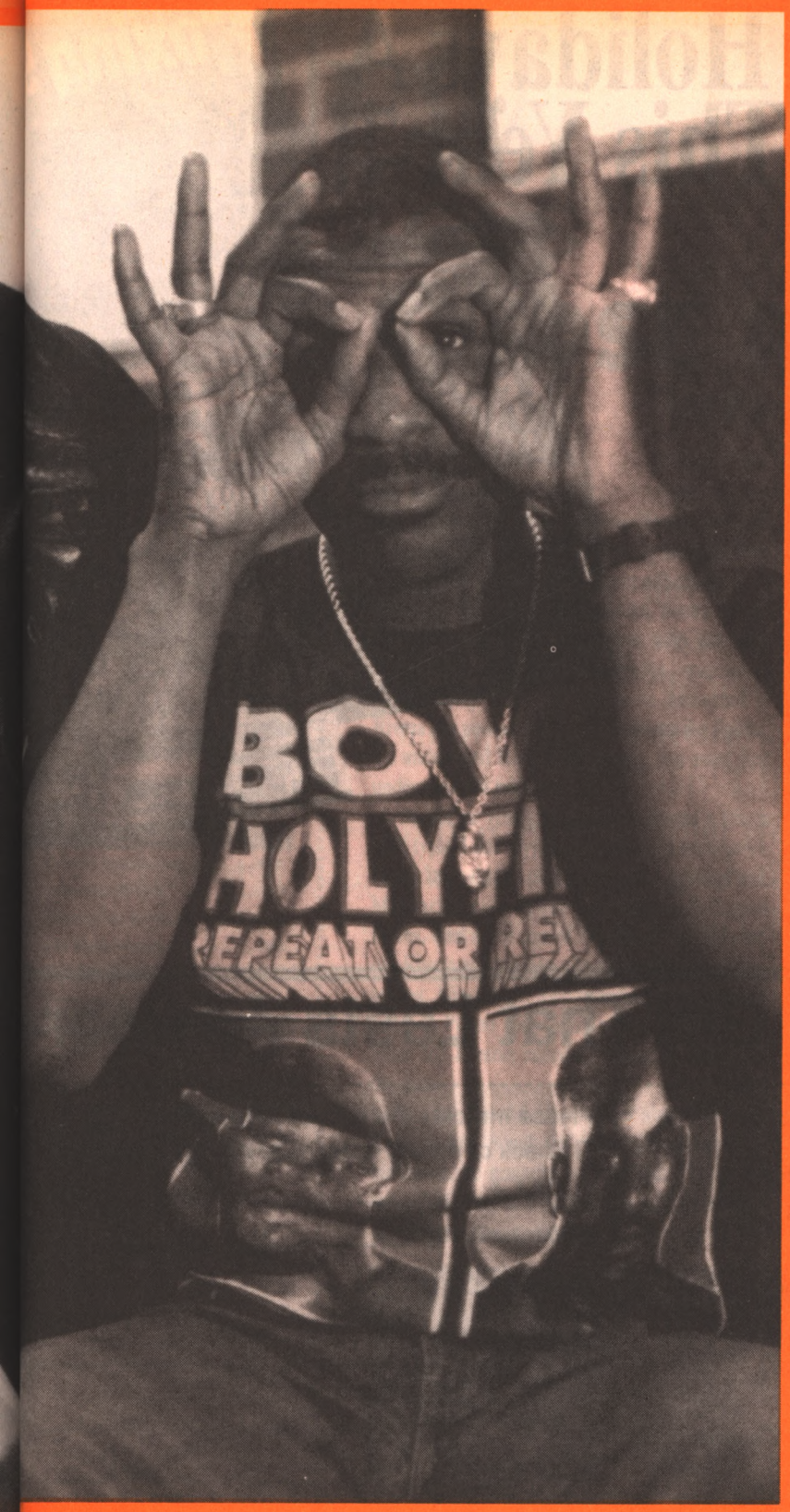
shoulders. When he pulled it off, Leon did it. He probably had more joy and happiness in his life. The fans accepted him beating Ali. They thought Leon was an everyday happy-go-lucky guy. He beat Ali. And we had the world by the balls."

Then it began to crumble. "The first thing he wanted was for me to give him some money to party," Lewis said. "'Leon,' I said, 'you can't go in some hole-in-the-wall places. You can't be seen in those juke joints.' Then he fell into the hands of these lawyers from Detroit. They flamboozled him. In the first fight, Leon made around $350,000. I wouldn't return all the money to him at once because I knew he would spend it. In the rematch, he made over $4-million."

Spinks and Ali fought a rematch seven months later, but this time it was different. Lewis makes a pained face. "For the second fight, Leon was supposed to be at the arena at, let's say 7 p.m. Leon shows up at 9:15, 9:30,



Unlike many boxers, former world heavyweight champion Jersey Joe Walcott enjoyed a full life after hanging up the gloves. At one point, Walcott served as the chairman of the New Jersey Athletic Commission.



Michael Spinks and daughter Michelle pose for the camera in a lighter moment. According to Spinks' brother Leon, Michael was spared the whippings he regularly received as a boy.

didn't even have his equipment. He fought in Mike Rossman's cup. That hundred-man entourage—they left his whole equipment bag behind! I went myself to borrow Rossman's cup after he beat [Victor] Galindez. The cup was still wet. He didn't have any equipment. [He puts his head in his hands.] I can't express the feeling. I can't express my anger. That was it. That was it! I told Slim [his name for Michael], 'I want nothing to do with him. He can jump off the top of the Superdome.'

"He knows right and wrong. He says, 'Leave me alone. Let me do my own thing.' It's become a pattern. Then, against my better judgment, I got him a job at Ditka's in Chicago. Leon started drinking with his customers. It was getting pretty embarrassing.

"Leon has experienced the American Dream, and then it turned out to be the nightmare of a lifetime," Lewis said. "It was like trying to rush everything into a very short time. He threw his money away. He was ripped off. Everything he touched would go haywire.

"He means well—but another voice, like a cartoon devil, is always plucking the angel on his shoulder and saying, 'Let's go.'"

Like Lewis, John Caluwaert thought he could assist Leon with his professional and personal affairs, but a similar pattern emerged. Caluwaert, a Chicago attorney, signed Spinks to a managerial contract in 1991, managing him through eight fights—six wins and two losses. The eighth fight was in February 1993; he lost a 10-round decision to an opponent who was 2-41. Caluwaert had met Leon at a party for one of his clients, and Leon expressed a desire for a comeback; Caluwaert needed to be sure of his intentions.

"I had a couple of psychologists meet with Leon for about six hours in this office—I wanted an unbiased standpoint," Caluwaert said. "They said that he was a man with a great heart, he had a belief in the kind of thing that we were trying to put together for him, and that he came from an extraordinary, difficult, tough background, an abusive background as a child. He found the gym as a means to show that he had talent, the ability to compete, and he showed that he could rise to the top."

Caluwaert put together an investment group that handled everything from transportation to purchasing Leon's robe and finding an apart-

(Continued on page 77)

nd the bout is at 10 p.m.," Lewis said. "He's ot his entourage of Mr. T and his friends from etroit. I have no idea of who these people are. hey wouldn't even let his brother get near him. eon,' I said, 'where were you? What is on your mind? You're fighting the heavyweight championship of the world!'

"We didn't know what was going to happen. These lawyers and handlers were thieves. I said, 'Leon, I'm through.' I was so enraged. They

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NEW FACES

JOSE RIVERA

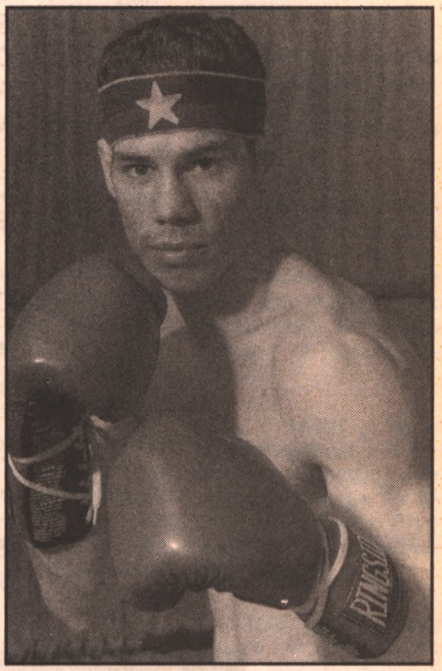
Welterweight

By Robert Cassidy

It says something about Jose Rivera when his manager opens an interview by stating, "Jose is what's good about the sport of boxing."

There was no mention of jabs, hooks, potential, or titles. Steve Tankanow, who has been managing Rivera for 18 months, wanted to immediately establish that he is interested in Rivera the person and not just Rivera the fighter. To understand Rivera the fighter, one must first understand the person.

As far as young fighters go, Rivera's life is both typical and atypical. He grew up underprivileged in a single-parent home in Springfield, Massachusetts. When his mother, Milagros Flores, died at the age of 28, she left the 10-year-old Rivera and his five siblings to fend for themselves. His father, Ferdinand, lived (and still lives) in Puerto Rico. With no direction or discipline, the Riveras ended up scattered throughout the state.

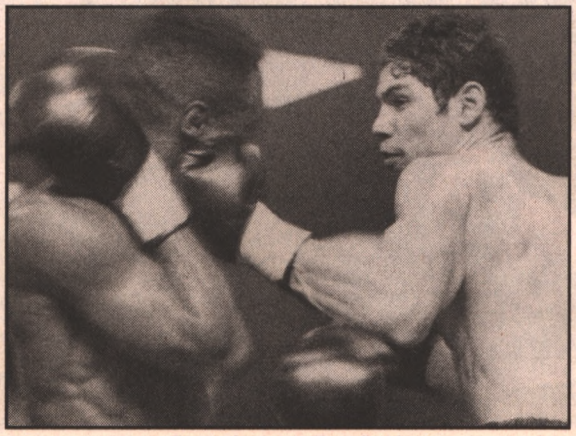


Rivera moved in with an aunt, Ramona Santiago, and though she provided love and a stable home, he nonetheless rebelled. "When my mom died, I got into trouble," he said. "I let out a lot of frustration on the streets. I gave up on life, but my aunt showed me I still had a life ahead of me. She gave me that love and care."

At 13, Rivera moved to Worcester to live with his older sister. That was the turning point of his life. In his new home, he formed a friendship with Bobby Harris and Rocky Gonzalez. Harris was a promising amateur heavyweight, and Rivera and Gonzalez began following him to the Worcester Boys and Girls Club.

"Me and Bobby had a lot in common," said Rivera. "He lost his mother, too. We were roommates, we were gymmates. We fed off of one another. Ever since I went to the gym, I've loved boxing. I learned a lot from boxing: respect and discipline."

(Continued on page 79)



Rivera hammers Troy Smith

PRO RECORD

7	Francisco Mercedes, Belmont, NH	KO 2
17	Rupert Daniel, Concord, NH	KO 2
21	Hector Ramos, Camp Hill, PA	KO 2
18	Julio Rodriguez, Taunton, MA	KO 1
26	Julio Gonzalez, Framingham, MA	KO 3
14	Tony Diaz, Whitman, MA	KO 3
10	Julio Torres, Worcester, MA	KO 3
21	Cornelius Blyther, Lowell, MA	KO 1
b 5	Carlos Cruz, Whitman	KO 2
25	Alberto Alicea, Revere, MA	W 6
30	Rick Edson, Worcester	W 6
18	Gerry Ocampo, Webster, MA	KO 4
9	Genaro Andujar, Worcester	KO 2
28	Andy Winstead, Boston	KO 2
24	Troy Smith, Worcester	W 10
8	Jose Mendez, Sturbridge, MA	W 8
19	Efrain Colon, New Bedford, MA	KO 2
10	Clarence Coleman, Worcester	KO 3

TS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	18	0	0	14

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Bruce Seldon KO 10 Joe Hipp
(Retains WBA Title)
Mike Tyson W Disq. 1 Peter McNeeley
Alexandr Zolkin W 12 Tony Tubbs
Franco Wanyama W 10 James Thunder*
Danell Nicholson KO 6 Anthony Willis
Shannon Briggs KO 1 Will Hinton
David Tua KO 6 Mauricio Villegas
Andrew Golota KO 1 West Turner
Martin Foster KO 8 Obed Sullivan

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Brian LaSpada KO 6 Cesar Flores

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 5 Everardo Armenta
Michael Nunn KO 4 Cecil McKenzie
Rocky Gannon W 8 Iran Barkley
Ginger Tshabalala KO 8 Jim Murray
Leslie Stewart KO 3 Ken McCurdy

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Joseph Kiwanuka W 10 Greg Wright
Joseph Kiwanuka KO 1 Rocky Meza
Brian Barbosa KO 3 Greg Townes

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Quincy Taylor KO 6 Julian Jackson
(Wins WBC Title)
Dana Rosenblatt W 10 Troy Watson
Glenwood Brown W 12 Rafael Williams

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris KO 2 Luis Santana
(Regains WBC Title)
Paul Vaden KO 12 Vincent Pettway
(Wins IBF Title)
Yori Boy Campas KO 2 Genaro Leon
Winky Wright W 12 Anthony Ivory
Emmett Linton KO 6 Art Serwano
P.J. Goossen W 10 Leroy Owens
Jason Papillion KO 10 David Taylor

WELTERWEIGHTS
Pernell Whitaker W 12 Gary Jacobs
(Retains WBC Title)
Ike Quartey KO 4 Andrew Murray
(Retains WBA Title)
Oba Carr W 12 Derrell Coley
Larry Barnes W 10 Benji Singleton
Joey Gamache KO 7 Anthony Monestero
Ralph Jones KO 1 Rusty Derouen
Shibata Flores KO 3 Young Dick Tiger
Shannon Taylor KO 3 Dwayne Swift

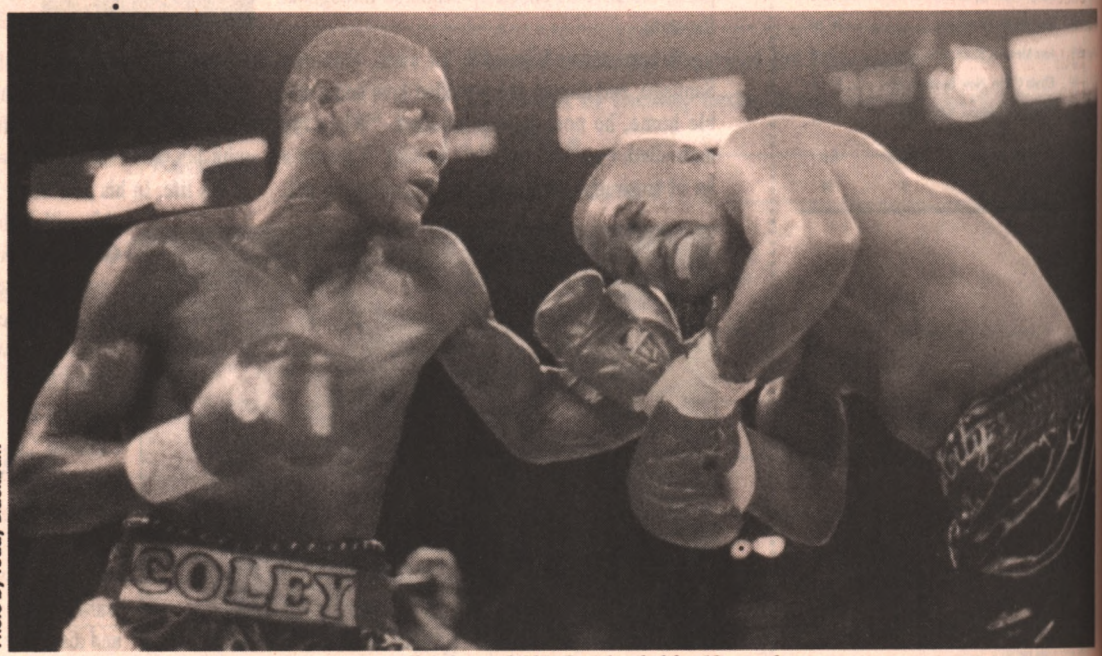


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Derrell Coley and Oba Carr battled for 12 rounds

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Fred Pendleton KO 8 Tony Lopez
Jan Bergman KO 2 Oscar Lopez
Dingaan Thobela KO 2 Santiago Ahumada
Vernon Forrest KO 2 Julian Romero

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Philip Holiday KO 11 Miguel Julio
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Lamar Murphy
(Retains WBC Title)
Steve Johnston KO 7 Paquito Openo

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Raul Martinez-Mora W 10 Carlos Gerena
Russell Mosley KO 2 Lupe Pintor

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Eloy Rojas W 12 Nobutoshi Hiranaka
(Retains WBA Title)
Chico Castillo W 10 Edwin Vasquez
Cesar Soto KO 6 Jose Madrid
Angel Chacon W 10 Rafael Ortega

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Agapito Sanchez
Kennedy McKinney KO 8 John Lowey
Rafael Del Valle W 10 Runnell Doll
Luisito Espinosa KO 7 Tomoaki Iwasa
Jesse Magana W 12 Joe Manzano

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Efrain Pintor KO 11 Derrick Whiteboy

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Cecilio Espino KO 4 Andres Cazares

FLYWEIGHTS
Takato Toguchi KO 10 Takashi Ohba
Panlan Sakrirind W 12 Roger Espanola

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Michael Carbajal KO 1 Jose Quirino

STRAWWEIGHTS
Shana Porpaoin KO 6 Ernesto Rubillar
(Retains WBA Title)

*Thunder was originally announced as the winner, but a scoring mixup led the Michigan commission to reverse the decision

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

It was a strange sight. As Taylor was producing a classic performance to take the WBC middleweight title from Julian Jackson by sixth-round TKO, the eyes of the world's most widely read boxing writers were glued to their computer screens. Taylor-Jackson, you see, immediately followed the Tyson-McNeeley bout at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, and the newspapermen were furiously filing on deadline. During the rest period between rounds five and six, Michael Marley, King's publicist, shouted from the apron, "Tyson's upstairs. He just got to the press room." With that, a handful of writers packed their computers and left ringside. Hell, Taylor could've been the second coming of Sugar Ray Robinson, but the media had come to see *Mike Tyson*.

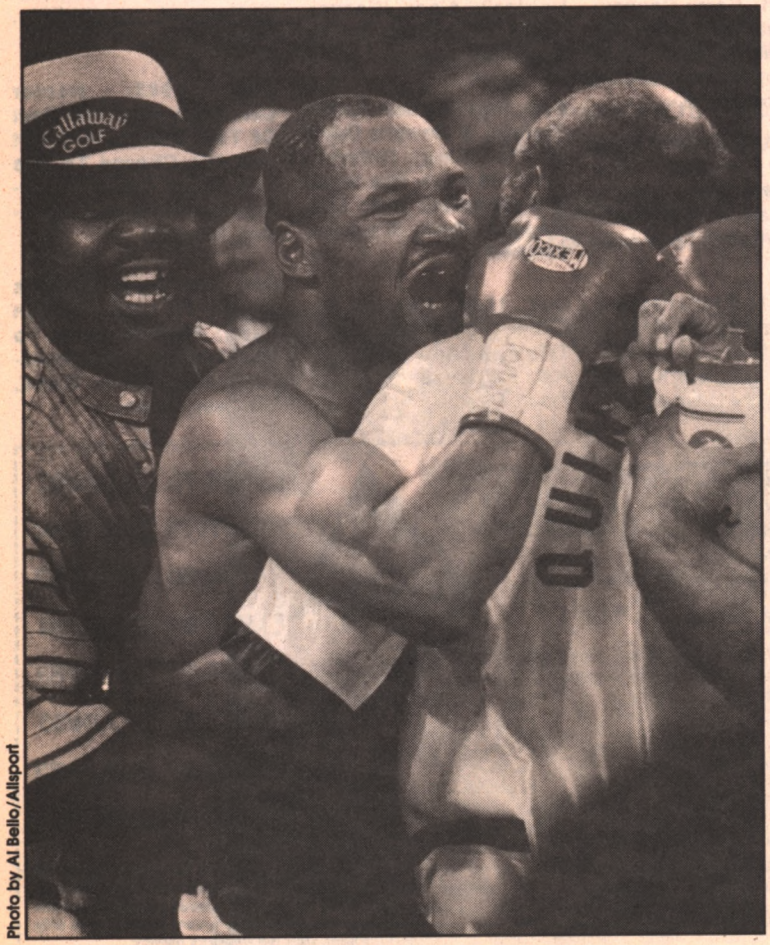


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

That his crowning moment was reduced to a walk-out bout doesn't diminish Taylor's accomplishment. The veteran southpaw was near-perfect, combining patience and power to conquer a faded fighter, but one who retained the ability to turn a bout with one punch.

Next time, let's hope Taylor is given the opportunity to star in his own show.

• • • •

Quincy Taylor

rry Norris KO 2 Luis Santana

Las Vegas, Nevada: Why, the wise guys wanted to know, if former illeweight clubfighter Vampire Johnson used to enter the ring in a cof- couldn't Santana arrive on a stretcher? Fortunately, he didn't leave on , but the defending WBC super welterweight champion did exit in a ry, and as a result, Norris, his three-fight nightmare finally over, can e again aim for showdowns with Felix Trinidad, Pernell Whitaker, San go rival and newly crowned IBF 154-pound champion Paul Vaden, and best fighters in the world.

Norris should never have lost to the badly faded Santana once, much twice, but a pair of consec- e disqualification defeats lled his career. That he n't suspended, or at least d, for his infractions was ctionable, and that he was arded both times with ant rematches was ludicrous. aside, his victory, which e at the 2:09 mark of the ond round, was swift, con- ing, and, best of all, free of troversy.

Norris-Santana III, which televised by ABC, was held the MGM Grand Garden na on the afternoon of on-McNeeley. The public invited free of charge.

Careful not to invoke the th of referee Joe Cortez SA), Norris, 152, Campo, lifornia, opened by boxing a distance. The 34-year- Santana, 154, New York y via the Dominican ublic, failed to land any ches, but rabbit- and kid- -punched and pulled on Norris' neck. "Santana was trying to e him lose his cool," said Orlin Norris Sr., Terry's co-trainer. It n't work. Norris, 27, took the round with a quick left-right and a of counter hooks.

One minute into the second, Norris, 39-6 (24), suddenly dropped tana, 40-16-2 (29), with a one-two. Thirty seconds later, a right hand posited him on the canvas. When another right produced knockdown ber three, Cortez waved the fight over without counting.

The judges were Carlos Castellano (USA), Kurt Storer (Germany), and cio Castilla (Colombia).

"I will never fight him again," said a relieved Norris. "He's out of life. He's a tomato can. No, make that a *rusty* tomato can. I dn't hire him for sparring."

"I'm happy," countered Santana, who had lost the fight, but not his e of humor. "The two times I won, I went to the hospital. This time I and I didn't have to go."

Promoter: Don King

(8-19-95)

Steve Farhood

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Lamar Murphy

Las Vegas, Nevada: Overshadowed by the controversial ending of the Tyson-McNeeley bout was the disgraceful scoring that determined the outcome of this, WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez' 10th defense.

Opening the pay-per-view portion of the Tyson-McNeeley card at the MGM Grand, Gonzalez lost two points for punching low and still managed to triumph by majority decision. The guilty parties were Daniel Van De Wiele (Belgium), who scored 114-114, Dalby Shirley (USA), 114-112, and Omar Mintun (Mexico), 117-109, or an incomprehensible 11-1 in rounds. THE RING had Murphy in front by 116-110.

Photo by Holly Stein/Allsport

*This time, Norris scored only **legal** knockdowns*

"Lamar almost knocked him out three times," said the challenger's trainer, Benny Collins. "The people need to start judging the fights. The judges obviously can't do it."

Gonzalez, 135, Mexico City, Mexico, stalked "Cochise" Murphy, 135, Miami, Florida, for most of the bout, concentrating his attack on the body. But some of his punches strayed low, and referee Mitch Halpern (USA) issued penalties in rounds two and six. With more than half the bout remaining, Gonzalez was one further penalty away from being disqualified.

"I think the referee was on my case," said the 24-year-old champion, who, as usual, struggled to make weight. "The points should not have been deducted. They were legitimate punches hitting right at belt level."

While Gonzalez, 38-0 (29), landed the harder blows, the 22-year-old Murphy, 18-1 (13), a heretofore obscure fringe contender with limited credentials, was far busier. He repeatedly snapped back the Mexican's head with rapid-fire flurries, especially when Gonzalez was backed to the ropes. The first such explosion came in round three, and there were similar moments in the sixth, eighth, 10th, 11th, and 12th. Gonzalez often answered with power hooks, and the bout was filled with action.

Unfortunately, that action wasn't limited to Gonzalez and Murphy.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Murphy-Gonzalez was a punishing war

After the decision was announced—and heavily booed—Collins and members of Gonzalez' camp engaged in a brief but potentially ugly mid-ring brawl. Order was restored before anyone was injured.

"I'm the champ regardless," Murphy said of the decision. "I'm the new champ. I want a rematch."

After a robbery that was more blatant that Foreman-Schulz, he deserves nothing less.

Promoter: Don King
(8-19-95)
Steve Farhood

Bruce Seldon KO 10 Joe Hipp

Las Vegas, Nevada: WBA heavyweight champion Seldon's first defense, a safety-first TKO of southpaw Hipp on the Tyson-McNeeley undercard, figures to become the answer to a commonly asked trivia question. ("When was a world heavyweight title fight a prelim to a 10-rounder?") It certainly wasn't the answer to the question we've been wondering about: Is Seldon a championship-quality fighter?

Seldon, 234, Atlantic City, New Jersey, fought an intelligent fight, but also an uninspired one. Hipp, 233, Seattle, Washington, was effective only when inside, and as a result, the champion was content to control the bout with his jab.

"I couldn't catch him; he was running like crazy," Hipp said of Seldon. "He got me with that jab. I couldn't control that jab."

The early rounds were particularly boring, with Seldon, 33-3 (29), keeping his distance and even offering a pair of 360-degree turns to elude the ponderous Hipp, 30-4 (19). The action heated up in the sixth, when Seldon, 28, and Hipp, 32, traded at close range. At one point, Seldon backed up and play-acted as if hurt.

By the seventh, Hipp was marked under the left eye, and in the eighth, he began bleeding profusely. Seldon's jab was landing with more regularity, and the challenger, his right eye closing fast, had no answers. After Seldon hammered Hipp with a right in the 10th, referee Richard Steele (USA) called a well-timed halt at the 1:47 mark.

After nine rounds, Seldon was ahead on all three cards, with Fernando Viso (Venezuela) and Arturo Sanchez (Panama) scoring 88-84, and Jerry Roth (USA) 87-84.

"I had to work him," said Seldon. "I aimed for that eye all night."

Like every other world-class heavyweight, Seldon is hoping his next bout is a clash with Mike Tyson. If he's passed over, co-manager Rocco DePersia said a rematch with Tony Tucker was likely.

Promoter: Don King
(8-19-95)
Steve Farhood

Quincy Taylor KO 6 Julian Jackson

Las Vegas, Nevada: That age is a relative thing was never more evident than in this matchup, Jackson's first defense of his second reign as WBC middleweight champion. Jackson, a two-division champion, is 34. Taylor, the reigning NABF champion, is 32. But in boxing years, the fighters seem a generation apart. And whether younger by two or 20 years, Taylor reinforced the axiom that the hardest game almost never

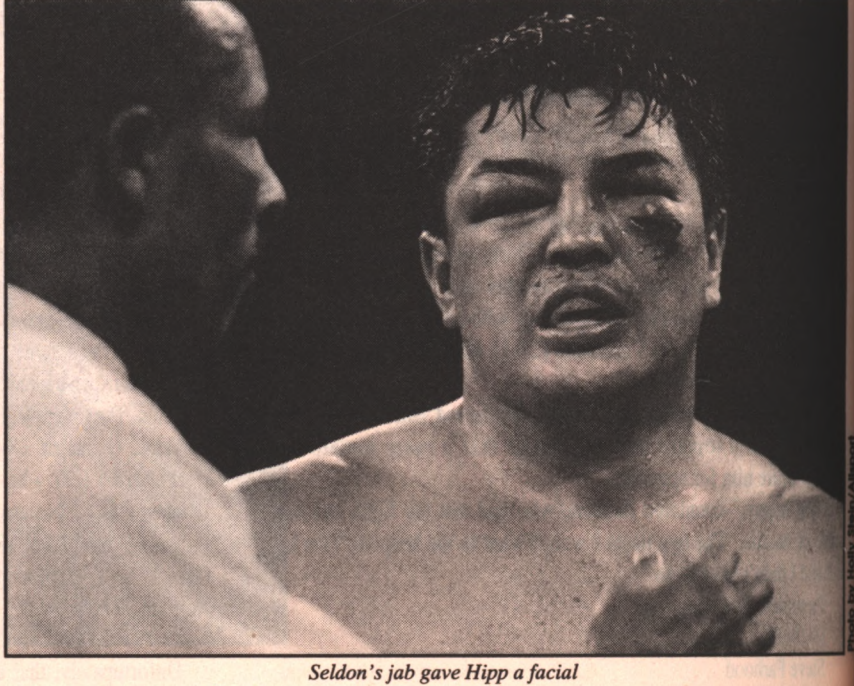


Photo by Hodly Shein/Allsport

Seldon's jab gave Hipp a facial

mies Father Time.

Jackson, 160, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, had claimed the title by quickly finishing Agostino rdamone in March. But unlike the Italian, cerebral uthpaw Taylor, 159½, Dallas, Texas, was careful t to test "The Hawk's" heralded one-punch power. e gave away the first three rounds by moving to his ft and stepping away from the champion's legraphed blows. In the fourth, he established his , as well as a counter cross and left uppercut. It dn't take long for a payoff; late in the round, a left ored Jackson, who almost fell out of the ring.

Taylor, 26-3 (22), again hurt Jackson in the fifth, ming him sideways with a hook and subsequently ggering him with a left. For his part, Jackson, 51-4 7), kept loading up. But his balance was poor and punches far too wide.

Taylor, who boxed with a brace on his left knee, rted slowly in the sixth. When he drove Jackson to ropes with a left, however, he followed up with explosion of uppercuts that convinced referee Jay dy (USA) to call a halt at the 2:33 mark.

The judges were Dave Moretti (USA), Joe Laurino (Uruguay), and vid Chung (South Korea).

"When I hurt him, I knew he was still dangerous, so I had to keep my mposure," said Taylor, a former protege of Sugar Ray Leonard. (He is w masterfully trained by former world welterweight champion Curtis kes.) "There was a lot of hard work, a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. e waited a long time for this day. This feels so, so good."

Seemingly a candidate for retirement, Jackson said he'd speak with handlers before making a decision regarding his future.

Promoter: Don King

(8-19-95)

Steve Farhood

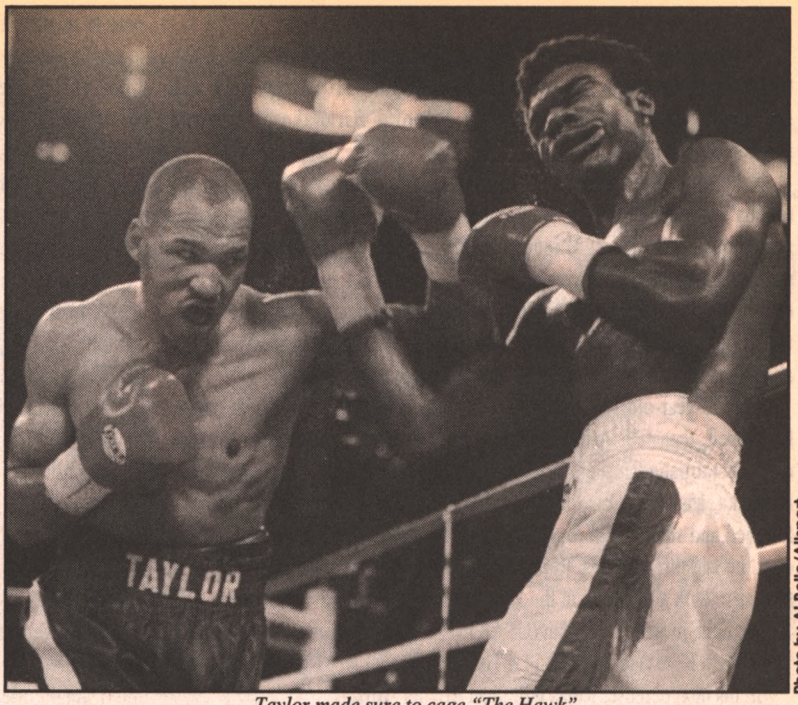


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Taylor made sure to cage "The Hawk"

Mbulelo Botile W 12 Sam Stewart

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Making his first defense of the IBF bantamweight title, Botile chased an elusive Stewart for 12 rounds en route to a lopsided unanimous decision victory before a crowd of 3,500 at the Carousel gambling resort.

Botile, 117¾, East London, South Africa, landed a stiff right hand to the jaw of the challenger in the first round. However, if the champion's early success led him to think he could take out Stewart, 117, Los Angeles via Liberia, any time he chose, he was mistaken. While Botile pressured the fleet-footed Stewart throughout, hitting him wherever and whenever he could, he never threatened to halt his foe. On the other hand, the 26-year-old Stewart, 10-3-2 (4), never looked a winner.

It was a methodical but uninspired performance from the champion. He made the mistake of trying to land a big right hand, and as a result, he was often made to miss. While Botile, 17-0 (10), did what was required, he would be well-advised to attack the body and up his work rate when facing mandatory challenger Ancee Gedeon later this year.

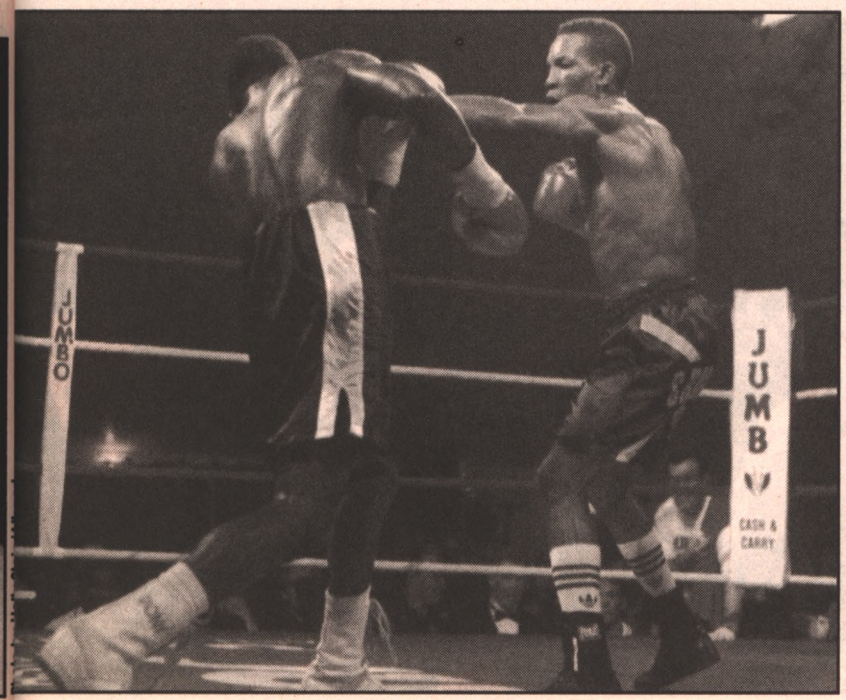
Lulama Mtya (South Africa) scored 119-109, and Alfred Buqwana (South Africa) and John Stewart (USA) 118-110.

Promoter Rodney Berman was satisfied with Botile's performance and suggested we haven't yet seen the best of the 22-year-old champion.

The referee was Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

(7-4-95)

Ron Jackson



Botile controlled Stewart all the way

Eloy Rojas W 12 Nobutoshi Hiranaka

Tagawa, Japan: Making his fifth defense of the WBA featherweight title, Rojas rose from the canvas and overcame 1i10-degree heat and draining humidity to unanimously outpoint Hiranaka at Tagawa Municipal Gymnasium.

An upright stylist, Rojas, 125¼, Venezuela, controlled the first seven rounds with jabs and crisp combinations. The champion neutralized the roughhousing tactics of Hiranaka, 125¾, Japan, a previously unbeaten southpaw who is the younger brother of former WBA junior welterweight champion Akinobu Hiranaka. The 26-year-old challenger bled from a cut on his right eyelid from the third round on, and he was impressive with his ability to absorb punishment. But he was clearly outclassed.

The 28-year-old Rojas, 32-1-1 (25), was careless in the eighth, when he slipped, then fell from a relatively soft left hand. He regained his feet and reestablished his dominance with power shots. Ever aggressive, Hiranaka, 15-1 (9), rallied in the ninth, but it was his last stand. Noticeably fatigued and squinting through a partially closed right eye, he decelerated over the last three rounds. Rojas breezed to the finish, punctuating his performance with a big hook in the 12th that almost dropped the Japanese.

All three judges, Lou Tabat (USA), Rodolfo Hill (Panama), and Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea) scored 116-112. The referee was Larry Rozadilla (USA).

In his next defense, Rojas will meet Miguel Arrozal.

Promoters: Teiken Promotions, Chikuho Promotions

(8-13-95)

Joe Koizumi

Paul Vaden KO 12 Vincent Pettway

Las Vegas, Nevada: Vaden's staunch supporters have long touted him as "The Ultimate." In his first try at world honors, the mandatory challenger lived up to his nickname, dramatically hammering defending IBF junior middleweight champion Pettway with unanswered punches en route to a come-from-behind last-round stoppage victory before a crowd of 4,984 at the MGM Grand Garden.

After 11 rounds, Pettway led by a single point on all three cards.

The 27-year-old Vaden, 154, San Diego, California, was undaunted as the underdog, controlling the tempo from the seventh round until the finish. The powerpunching Pettway, 153, Baltimore, Maryland, seemed to lose his punching rhythm after the early rounds. Admittedly more boxer than puncher, Vaden started slowly, enabling Pettway, 29, to score on the inside with combinations to the body. It took Vaden three rounds to realize Pettway was vulnerable to his jab, which, along with his left uppercut, became the ultimate weapon in his victory drive.

Pettway, 38-5-1 (31) with 1 no-contest, tired visibly in the 10th, and with 10 seconds remaining, Vaden, 24-0 (12), came off the ropes with a combination that hurt the champion. Vaden again worked well off the ropes in the 11th, repeatedly forcing Pettway to hold. Pettway started the 12th with a booming right, but the 6'1" Vaden soon had him backing up, then drove him to a neutral corner with a left-right. Vaden didn't allow his opponent to retaliate this time, and while Pettway wasn't threatening to fall, he wasn't punching back either, and referee Richard Steele (USA) wisely caled a halt at the 2:33 mark.

"I didn't think I was behind," said Vaden, "and I wasn't thinking about a knockout. I'm usually boxing because I'm not used to knocking people out."

"Vaden fought the perfect fight," said Pettway. "He caught me with a lot of punches. There was nothing I could do. There was not enough defense for me to protect myself from all the punches."

The judges, all of whom had Pettway ahead by 105-104 at the time of the stoppage, were Eugene Grant, Dave Moretti, and Glen Hamada, all from the USA.

The bout was televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(8-12-95)

Jack Welsh

Chana Porpaoin KO 6 Ernesto Rubillar

Bangkok, Thailand: Unbeaten counterpuncher Porpaoin withstood the desperate attacks of Filipino challenger Rubillar in rounds two and four and sank the challenger with a right hand at 1:26 of the sixth at Rajadamnern Stadium. It was the Thai's eighth defense of the WBA minimum weight title.

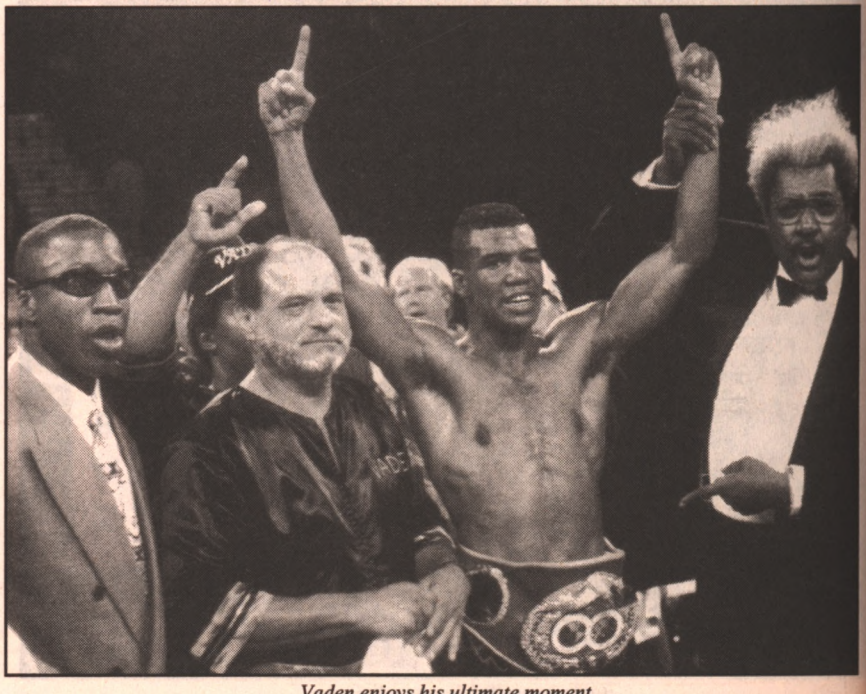
In the second, Rubillar stunned Porpaoin with a left-right and then battered him from all angles as the champion reeled on the ropes. In the fourth, the Filipino repeatedly rocked Porpaoin, and he continued to punch solidly in the fifth. But late in the round Porpaoin began retaliating with solid punches to the body, and Rubillar suddenly seemed fatigued. In the sixth, Porpaoin, 35-0 (14), exploded with a right, and Rubillar, 11-8-5, was counted out.

The judges were Masakazu Uchida (Japan), Kazunobu Asao (Japan), and Marcial Vargas (Panama).

Promoter: Niwat Laosuwanwat

(8-6-95)

Joe Koizumi ■



Vaden enjoys his ultimate moment

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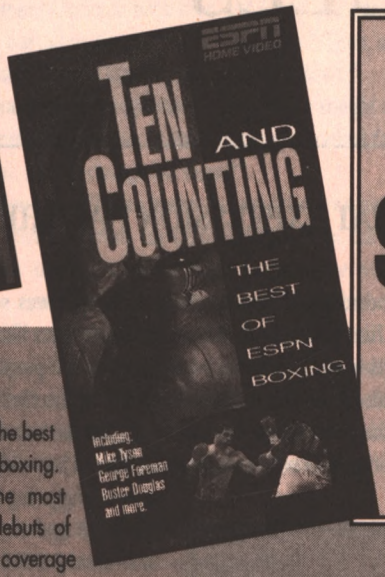

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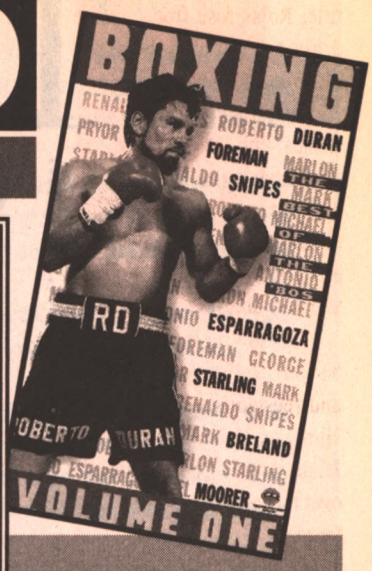

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By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

THAT EXPRESSION WAS THE TIP-OFF

(June 13, 1935)

At the weigh-in ceremony about 10 hours before he was scheduled to defend the heavyweight title against Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Baer didn't act like the adorable clown prince the world had taken to its heart. Yes, the towering giant patted people on top of their heads, winked at reporters who treated him with awe, and even kissed the cheek of the pretty young lady who was an assistant to the state boxing commissioner. But the moments of gayety were unconvincing, especially to those who really understood Baer. The wild, flamboyant life he lived was always triggering rumors of one thing or another. So it was anybody's guess what was bugging him at so crucial a time.

After weighing in about 10 hours before their title fight, heavyweight champion Max Baer (right) and Jimmy Braddock went through the ritual of posing for photographers. Had bookmakers been observant enough to notice that blank, faraway look on Maxie's face in this provocative photo, they might not have made Baer a prohibitive 15-1 favorite.

Maxie's manager, multimillionaire Ancil Hoffman, was also the champion's father-figure and closest friend and ally. Hoffman would later recall, "The night before the fight I heard him prancing around his bedroom when he was supposed to be resting. I asked him if anything was wrong. He didn't answer. Just shook his head. So I left him alone. In the morning, he still had that strange, faraway look in his eyes. It was so unlike Max to be anything but laughing and happy. I knew that whatever it was, it was down deep. I was really concerned, especially since the fight was just hours away. It wasn't money. He looked great in training and was in the best shape of his life. Nobody in his family was sick. Maybe a woman problem. But I doubted it. I would have had some hint."

Ancil was never to find the answer.

As everyone knows, Baer blew his title to Braddock in one of the major upsets of all-time. Ancient Jimmy went into the ring a 10-, 15-, 20-1 shot, take your pick. Such colossal odds had been kicked around ever since the absurd mismatch was announced. Of course, nothing described here is new or revealing. Nothing except this extraordinary picture of Baer as he goes though the motions of squaring off with soon-champion-to-be Braddock. The blank look on his face. The frozen stare as he looks not at "Cinderella Jim," but at the floor. His mind is a million miles away. He has no interest at all in what he's doing. Or where he is. He's already a beaten former champion, though there are still 10 hours remaining in his reign.

HAMMERIN' HANK'S SECRET

(July 27, 1931)

The very first entry in the long, remarkable ring record of Henry Armstrong states: "July 27, 1931 ... Al Iovino ... North Braddock, PA ... KO by 3." It was a secret known only to Henry and his half-brother and trainer, Harry, until exposed in 1938 by Pittsburgh's legendary sports editor and columnist, Harry Keck. But the real credit for the astonishing expose, which broke just one week before Armstrong annexed his third world championship, goes to an obscure Pittsburgh featherweight named Jimmy Thomas.

In a scribbled letter to Keck, which Harry kept as a treasured memento until his death, Thomas wrote, "Seven years ago, Armstrong was boxing around Pittsburgh. But he was Melody Jackson back then, not Henry Armstrong. I'm sure because my manager, Abie Witz, used to pay him a dollar a day to spar with me at the Salvation Army gym in Pittsburgh." Then, as if scolding Keck, Thomas continued, "You should remember him, too, Mr. Keck. Because Al Iovino knocked him out in the Meyers Bowl."

Keck didn't remember. But incurable news-hound that he was, Harry sought out Iovino, whom he remembered, however vaguely. No longer fighting, Iovino was working as a carpenter's helper. "I thought the guy looked familiar in all those newspaper pictures," Iovino told Keck. "But the man I fought was Melody Jackson. Did he change his name?"

That was enough for Keck. On June 6, 1938, he broke the shocking expose with a headline blitz in *The Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph*. At the time, Armstrong was sportsdom's hottest attraction, the darling of fight fans the world over. Only one week before, as featherweight champion, he had savagely battered Barney Ross to win the welterweight crown. Nine weeks later, Henry was scheduled to go after Lou Ambers' lightweight title. Bombarded by the press, Armstrong vigorously denied that he had ever been knocked out, and insisted he had never even heard of Iovino. But when confronted by Keck's solid evidence, the great man confessed.

"I kept it a secret not because I was knocked out," explained Armstrong sadly, "but because that was a professional fight, and I would have lost my amateur status." Henry said he had gone to Pittsburgh from St. Louis after he read in *The Pittsburgh Courier* that talented young black fighters were treated well by local promoters. "My brother Harry and I bummed it to Pittsburgh," he recalled. "We were broke. Living from day to day on a dime's worth of buns and water, sleeping any place we could spread out. I got a dollar a day working with kids like Jimmy Thomas and Jackie Rodgers.

"The night I fought Iovino," Armstrong, by now lost in the past, sadly continued, "I went into the ring on an empty stomach, and he caved me in with very hard bodyshots that felt they were coming out my back."

Henry explained that he and Harry went back to St. Louis, and after a few amateur fights, took off for California, where they finally got lucky—with the help of big Hollywood names like Al Jolson and George Raft.

But what did once-obscure and now-famous carpenter's helper Iovino have to say about all the hoopla? Still referring to the great Armstrong as Melody Jackson, Iovino recalled, "Melody was deceptive in build. I weighed 123 pounds. He seemed much heavier. He wanted to weigh in in his street clothes, but we made him strip, and we were surprised that he scaled only 120. Melody was all arms and shoulders. He came buzzing into me from the very start. I let him come, nailing him with my left hand, which was my best hand, to the head and body. He was made to order for my southpaw counterpunches. He went down twice in the second round from bodyshots. I finished him in the third with two left hooks in a fast combination, first to the head, then to the belly. I got $60 for the fight."

In a gesture so typical of the immortal champion-of-champions, and also perhaps as an apology for denying credit where it had been so rightfully due, Iovino was Armstrong's personal ringside guest in New York that memorable night when Henry whipped Ambers to capture his third world title. Iovino was invited to the winner's dressing room, where Al warmly congratulated his old foe. Henry shook Al's hand, patted him on the shoulder, and said with a grin, "Gosh, Al, I'm lucky it wasn't you in that ring tonight."

Iovino returned to Pittsburgh the next day in a plush Pullman car, another gift from Henry. "I feel like I'm nine feet tall," Al told the press upon his arrival. Harry Keck rode home on the same train. But not in a plush Pullman car. And you can be sure Henry Armstrong wasn't paying Harry's freight.

HENRY ARMSTRONG
(Henry Jackson)
Born, December 12, 1912, Columbus, Miss. American Negro. Weight, 145 pounds. Managed by Eddie Mead and Wirt Ross.
(Fought early in career as Melody Jackson)

1931

July 27—Al Iovino, No. Braddock, Pa. ---------- KO by 3
Aug. —Sammy Burns, Millville, Pa.----W 6

1932

Al Iovino (right) was Armstrong's ringside guest the night Henry bested Lou Ambers to win his third world crown. The only other man to ever kayo Armstrong was Fritzie Zivic, in 1941. It took 28 years for Iovino's knockout of Armstrong to be inserted into Henry's long, historic record. It was finally recorded in the 1959 edition of ***The Ring Record Book*** *(left).*

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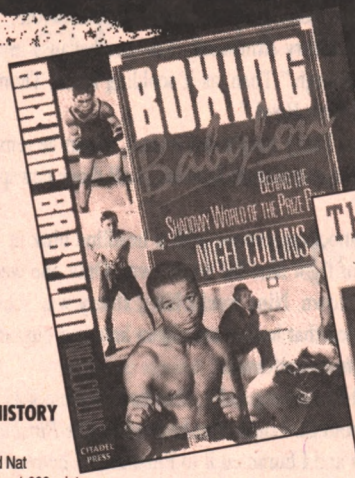

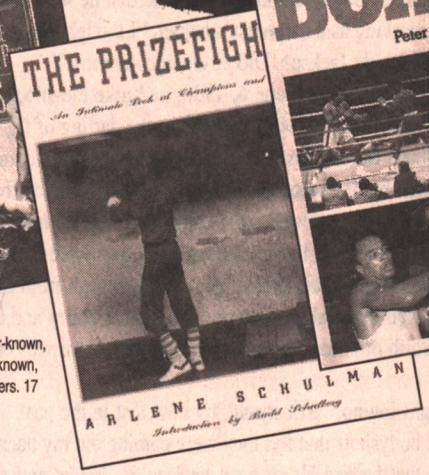

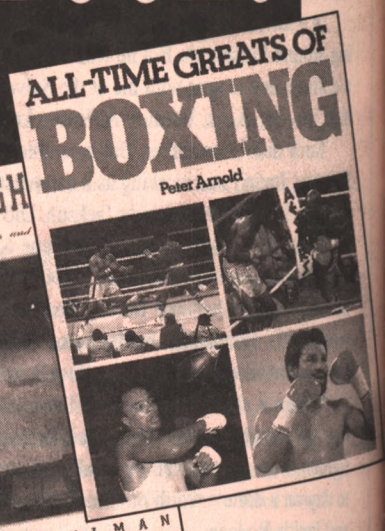

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Buster Mathis Jr.

(Continued from page 21)

ch bigger than you, you stayed away. If you and move against Tyson, won't you be get-g away from what you do best?

BM: No. I don't know how I'm gonna ht Mike yet. I'm sitting here looking at the n [of the McNeeley fight]. We're not gonna me up with one game plan. We'll come up th many game plans. When I fight Mike, probably go back to what I know best—ve my head, slip, don't get hit. I'm a very od slipper, one of the best out there. I serve to be in the ring with Mike Tyson. hen they come see Buster Mathis and Mike son, they're gonna have a helluva fight.

THE RING: It's safe to say you won't take cNeeley's approach and run right at Tyson?

BM: I ain't gonna act the fool now. You tta fight Mike Tyson carefully. I have a mfort zone. I'll be in my comfort zone and t get it on.

THE RING: You're not a big puncher. How you plan to get Tyson's respect?

BM: Get Mike's respect, huh? Well, I tta hurt the man. I gotta show Mike Tyson n no wussy. I'm going in there and rumble th the man. "Mike, you got a fight comin' ." I've beaten everybody who's had a big nch. Look at my record. Everybody says, uster, you should be body-beautiful." But e beaten everybody who's body-beautiful. itics will be critics.

THE RING: Speaking of the critics, there are ing to be those who say you're just another cNeeley. How will you answer that?

BM: I say come and watch me fight. I 't no ... watch me fight. Some people say cNeeley's better than me, but critics will be itics and I can't do nothin' about it. ey're gonna be there all the time. Some ople say you can't write.

THE RING: I know it. I get letters all the e. At the Hall of Fame induction weekend in nastota in June, you and I were panelists gether, and we answered questions from a up of fans. When a fight with Tyson was ntioned, you said it would be great for you cause of the money. Is that your primary tivation, or is there something else?

BM: Oh, boy. A lot of it's money, and ating Tyson is another. Then I get a chance fight for the heavyweight championship of the world and fight for more money. So it's all tied in together.

THE RING: What was your father's reaction when he found out you were going to get the fight?

BM: He was happy, excited. He sat back and drew up a couple of game plans and thought about some sparring partners. He's helped me to this point. He told me when I started boxing at about 14 that one day I'd reach this point, and he was right. So we've planned for this for about 10 years.

THE RING: Given that he fought Ali and Frazier, how can he help you prepare for Tyson?

BM: He can tell me about how to handle interviews, how to stand in front of the press. He can tell me about fear and how to control it, and how, when the bell rings, to go to war. Mike Tyson is just a human being, just like I am. He lost, he got knocked out. He's proven he's beatable.

THE RING: Being that Tyson has indeed been knocked out, is some of the aura gone now? Is he less intimidating than the first time around?

BM: This is how I feel: I think what worked back then isn't gonna work now. Back then, Mike was 20, 21, devastating, hitting people hard. But he's been in and out of jail, he's been married, had a kid, he's reaching a point when it's time for you to settle down. He's got, what, $20-, $30-million in the bank? So is [the aura] gone? *Um*, not by choice. I think it just left. It's just a natural thing. If I was poor and from the streets and not making a dime, and my only way out was to fight, and I got to the point that I was making $30-million, you find out you're eating well. But I don't know what's in Mike Tyson's heart, really. Mike Tyson could come back devastating and hurt people. It's just an educated guess. Only Mike can answer that.

THE RING: Play out the fight from the opening bell.

BM: I see me going to Mike Tyson, moving my head, slipping left hooks and uppercuts. When he gets off, I get off. Use my short jab. Mike's gonna try and devastate me with one big punch, so I have to stay focused. When I slip, I'll come back with something. I'm very confident in this fight.

THE RING: Do you think it will be a long fight?

BM: Uh, huh. I'm planning on it.

THE RING: And how's it going to end?

BM: I'm planning me being the victor, whether by decision or knockout. I'll make sure this is gonna be a helluva fight, and I'll be prepared for it.

THE RING: Promise it'll be a lot better than Tyson-McNeeley?

BM: When the people come see Tyson-Mathis, they're gonna be entertained. ■

Wayne McCullough

(Continued from page 23)

him practicing it. The only problem was he'd train harder than we wanted him to, even when he was at home.

From the start, I turned lot of the work with Wayne over to Thell, and a lot of the credit must go to him. When we started with Wayne, I had Bowe and Montell Griffin and Mike McCallum, and I didn't have the time that was needed. We were immediately impressed. We had heard Wayne was a rough, tough kid, a walk-in banger, but when we first talked with him, he came off as a nice, mild person. He was so appreciative of the chance to come with us. And he's maintained that attitude until the present time, no matter how impressive he's been in winning. He's maintained a nice, quiet disposition. The only time he gets angry is when someone takes him lightly or degrades his abilities.

Wayne started off as a game, walk-in fighter who got hit a little more than he should have. I understood because I started off that way. In 1932, when I started, the Jack Dempsey era had just ended, and he was the most popular fighter in world. My first trainer started me off in the Dempsey style. I mastered that style, bobbing and weaving and becoming a pretty good puncher. Then the trainer looked at me one day and said, "You should be able to box well, too," and I started learning that style. Boy, in the beginning, I got my clock cleaned! But I was determined to learn it.

With Wayne, we had to instill some boxing into him. I was so proud of him in his fight with Victor Rabanales. After the third round, I told him Rabanales was too strong. And Wayne boxed like a champ and outpointed him. I was so proud, I didn't know what to do.

Before the Yakushiji fight, Wayne had been number one in the WBC for a while, but after he had a couple of tough fights with Rabanales and Fabrice Benichou, a pair of former world champions, I told his manager, Matt Tinley, that I wanted to put him in a soft one on a small card

(Continued on page 68)

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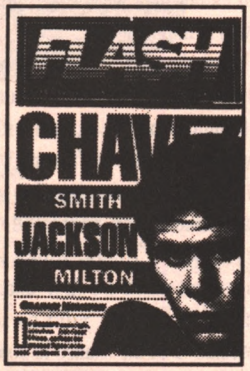

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Wayne McCullough

(Continued from page 67)

before fighting for the title. I didn't want him in three tough fights in a row. I wanted him to have a break. But after the soft fight, it was time for a showdown with the WBC bantamweight champion, Yasuei Yakushiji.

After training in St. George, Utah, we stopped in Hawaii on the way to Yakushiji's hometown, Nagoya, Japan, which was the site of the fight. St. George is high desert, a very dry, hot area. The transition from there to Nagoya could have been traumatic, and I didn't want to expose Wayne to such a sudden change. We stopped in Honolulu to break that up. The week there helped a lot, and Wayne adjusted.

Actually, Japan is one of the few places I had never been for a fight. Nagoya wasn't as humid and hot as we had expected it to be. It worked out well. We got to Nagoya one week before the fight, and they treated Wayne very well and with much respect. And that goes for the champion, too, though I'm sure he did it for psychological reasons. He wanted to lull Wayne into a false sense of security.

The people were respectful, but there was gamesmanship going on, too. We had agreed to separate public workouts. The champion went first at his gym, strictly going through the motions with a familiar sparring partner. There was nothing to see. The next day it was our turn, and I told Wayne there would be no sparring. There were lots of protests. I said we had agreed to a public workout, and we'd adhere to it, but we weren't going to spar under any circumstances, that there was nothing in the contract that said we had to. It seemed like there were 1,000 photographers there, and there was a lot of disappointment.

There was more gamesmanship at the weigh-in. Wayne made weight with no problem. Then the champion got on the scale and was announced as 1¾ pounds over the limit. Even though Yakushiji has trained a lot in the United States, I had never heard him speak English. But when the weight was announced, he said, in perfect English, "Oh, my God!" It sounded funny to me; this guy was too wise to come in that heavy. They gave him two hours to make weight. He came back in 15 minutes, and was *under* the weight! I knew it was an act from the start. He was just looking to disrupt Wayne.

As the fight got close, Wayne's mood never changed. He's the type of person who wants to be doing something all the time. Two days before the fight, he came down to 116 pounds because of the heat and humidity, as well as the fact that he had worked a bit harder than he should have. I was very upset. I told him, "We want you at a certain level, and there's nothing worse than a stale fighter." Even if a stale fighter's body is in great condition, he can't do anything. But the day of the weigh-in, he was back to 118, and he probably put on another three or four pounds between the weigh-in and the fight.

The moment wasn't going to overcome Wayne. He's just so confident. I've had him in with tough fighters; that Javier Medina was very tough, and Wayne destroyed him. Jerome Coffee had gone 15 rounds with Jeff Fenech in Australia, and he was sure Wayne had no business being in the same city with him, much less the same ring. And what a licking he took! Wayne's not afraid of the devil himself. He never asks questions about his opponent, and he just can't wait for the opening bell to ring.

Actually, I was extremely confident, too. I always look for things that indicate fighters are nervous. I've seen them look so cool, but when you feel under the armpits, the perspiration is running down in a little stream. Joe Louis would lie on the rubbing table and fall sound asleep. In that sense, Wayne reminds me of Joe a little bit.

I had seen two tapes of Yakushiji, and I expected him to box and move. I didn't think he'd do much fighting. He's very tall, and he wants you on the outside so he can use his height and reach. What we didn't know was he had a pretty good left hook, too. The hook was the only time Wayne was hurt—a punch right under the liver—in the second or third round. Wayne even talked about that punch in the dressing room afterward.

Wayne had to feel Yakushiji out a bit in the first round, but the champion had to feel Wayne out, too. Still, Wayne was busier. Then Yakushiji began to follow his strategy: jab, jab, move, and keep his favored distance by throwing punches from the outside. We had drilled on cutting off the ring, and Wayne was about six inches closer to Yakushiji than the champion wanted him to be. Yakushiji wasn't used to being jabbed by anyone, or being outjabbed. He had never worried about that before. I told Wayne after the first round, "Your jab is better than his." He started backing Yakushiji up with the jab, and like most fighters of today, the champion didn't know how to fight off the ropes. Both his shoulder blades would touch the

(Continued on page 70)

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Wayne McCullough

(Continued from page 68)

ropes, and he'd stand up straight, which would give Wayne more area to work on.

Wayne was always busy, always moving, so Yakushiji had to maintain his position. He was going backward not because he was afraid of his opponent, but because he wanted his punching distance. Our pet saying was "take up the slack." Every time Yakushiji took a step to his left, Wayne would quickly take a step to his right. That was the pattern the whole fight. Yakushiji didn't know how to make it any different. When Wayne changed, Yakushiji couldn't. As great a fighter as Ali was, he was never able to change the pattern of a fight, either.

Wayne didn't get hit that much, but when he did, it happened in the center of the ring, and before he could back Yakushiji up, usually at the beginning of the round. Early on, he got cut above the right eye from a punch, and it reopened later in the fight. There was also a cut three or four inches above the right ear that was opened by a butt. Neither cut was bad enough to worry about, and Thell did a very capable job. Because Wayne was so close to him, Yakushiji was missing a lot. And Wayne was moving his head a lot, too.

In the last couple of rounds, Yakushiji knew the only way he could win was by knockout. He fought a very good 11th round, and he really went to work in the 12th. He didn't start too late, because if he had fought at that pace earlier, he would've pooped out. I told Wayne to box in the 12th, but not to let Yakushiji take control. I had never been concerned with winning a decision in Japan, because I knew I had to stay focused. The same with Wayne. It wasn't something I had brought up. In essence, Wayne fought close to a perfect fight, and not only in Yakushiji's homeland, but in his home *city*.

When the decision was rendered, the scores were given in Japanese. At the end of each card, we'd hear the fighter's name. I was concerned when I heard it was a split decision, but then I realized the judge who had scored for Yakushiji was the Korean. When we heard Wayne's name for the second time, indicating he was the winner, it was the most expressive I've ever seen him. He jumped up and shouted. And I felt great. Wayne had been under great pressure, but he stuck with it, never complained, and did better than we thought he could.

Wayne is relatively inexperienced, but only as far as champs from the past are concerned. As for today's fighters, there aren't a lot of champions who could beat him. That's the way I feel about Wayne. And I'm not worried about the title getting to his head. He's very appreciative of the title. His wife is a very stabilizing influence; I never see him outside without her. The Wayne McCullough before he won the title is the same Wayne McCullough after he won the title.

People love to see a fight, love to see action, and here's a fella who is unlimited action. He throws 100 punches every round. *At least* 100. I want to know one other fighter who does that. There are a lot of people who know Wayne as "that kid from Ireland who throws so many punches." I'd like to see him make a couple of defenses, then move up. He could grow into a featherweight, maybe even a junior lightweight. He can become a big star.

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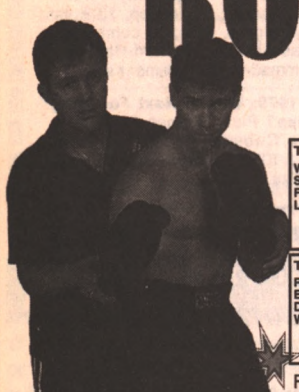

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Someone asked me who my 20th world champion would be. You never know. In fact, 2½ years ago, I didn't know number 19 was gonna be Wayne McCullough. ■

Bowe-Holyfield III

(Continued from page 26)

Newman, recalling Holyfield's remarkable counterattack in the 10th round of the first fight. And therein lies the essence of Holyfield's appeal: You know that even if he doesn't beat Bowe, he's gonna shoot the works trying. And that's bound to be fun to watch.

It is Holyfield's penchant for forcing the issue, regardless of the consequences, that has led many observers to the conclusion that all the wear and tear is about to come down on him with a crash. Indirectly, it's also an issue that Holyfield's trainer, Don Turner, addressed when asked what his chief task was in preparing Holyfield to beat Bowe.

"Evander has to keep his eye on his boxing, stick to the game plan," said Turner. "He's a warrior. He can out-will anybody, but he has to use the skills he used in the second fight. To me, genius is telling somebody something they already know, but aren't thinking about. It's my job to remind Evander of what he already knows."

But the 33-year-old Holyfield, 31-2 (22), can't afford to be too cautious. Even though he used lateral movement in the second fight, it was when he attacked that Bowe looked the most uncomfortable.

"You've got to watch out for the surprise attack," said Bowe's trainer, Eddie Futch. "[Holyfield] will fight back when you least expect it, just when you've been doing well, and think you can step back and relax."

It's unlikely either man will have much time to relax. There's way too much on the line. Both are looking at this fight as an opportunity to recapture a measure of what they've lost since they last met. For Bowe, it means redemption, an opportunity to wash away the stain of the only defeat of his pro career. For Holyfield, it's a way to prove he's still among the elite, still capable of confounding the critics.

It's easy to understand why Holyfield is the underdog. Bowe, 27, comes armed with an impressive array of weapons, not the least of which is a punishing uppercut. It's a blow that makes him extremely formidable on the inside, and that's territory Holyfield will have to invade in order to nullify Bowe's height and reach advantage.

Holyfield also has Bowe's newly rediscovered jab to worry about. Big Daddy had been neglecting that punch until the Gonzalez fight. But after the crude Cuban insulted everybody in Bowe's immediate family, Bowe was motivated to dust off his straight left and ram it into Gonzalez' face at every opportunity.

"Riddick has power in his jab that's comparable to other fighters' right hands," said Futch. "When he's sharp, he can do it all. That was obvious in the Gonzalez fight."

Most fight people you talk to agree with Futch; they are convinced Bowe has finally hit his stride. But you can't help but wonder if his one-sided thumping of Gonzalez was really such a big deal. Despite his prefight threats of mayhem, all the lumbering Cuban had to offer was a large, barely moving target. Holyfield isn't going to be anywhere near as accommodating.

"You can't really evaluate Bowe until he fights somebody good," insisted Turner. "Hide made him look good, and I never thought too much of Gonzalez. I just don't think [Bowe] has the savvy and willpower to beat Evander. At this level, intangibles win fights."

It's also the intangibles that can lead to defeat. Holyfield was supposedly overconfident and undertrained for the first fight. They said the same thing about Bowe when he lost the rematch. This time there can be no excuses, with both men well-aware of what they're getting into. They've gone at each other for 24 riveting rounds, and have come away from that experience with both respect and admiration for one another. That's why comparisons to Frazier and Ali are limited. Frazier never liked Ali, and still doesn't. But when Bowe and Holyfield hit the publicity trail to hype the third chapter of their ongoing saga, they acted more like buddies than arch-rivals.

"To be honest, I like this guy," said Bowe, laughing and shaking his fist at the same time. "But I gotta put something on him."

At times, Bowe and Holyfield seemed like a well-rehearsed comedy team.

"I ain't letting no little man whip me no more," said Bowe, glowering down at his significantly smaller adversary.

"Then don't show up," countered Holyfield.

But don't let the jocularity fool you. Once the bell rings, these two will pick up right where they left off, and try their damndest to knock each other's heads into the press section.

"Bowe brings out the best in me, and I think I bring out the best in him," said Holyfield. "We bring out the best in each other."

Just like Ali and Frazier, right? Well, not according to Futch. To the 84-year-old trainer's way of thinking, there was another famous heavyweight series that reminds him more of Bowe-Holyfield than Ali-Frazier does.

"It reminds me of the three Ali-Norton fights," said Futch, who worked Ken Norton's corner for those memorable bouts. "All three were hotly contested. Evander and Riddick have the same sort of attitude as Norton and Ali. Both are trying to prove they're the best."

Ali won two of three in both the Frazier and Norton series. And regardless of whether it's Bowe or Holyfield in that position after their third confrontation, don't be surprised if they do something that neither Ali and Frazier nor Ali and Norton did—fight a fourth bout. How about a best-of-seven series?

It's going to be a while, if ever, before King allows Tyson to tackle the winner. In the meantime, Bowe and Holyfield can keep the consumers happy with what they do best—fight one another. ■

Jesse James Hughes

(Continued from page 37)

to make him out to be one, but he didn't deserve to die."

For clues to his fate, the search starts with Hughes' past. He was imprisoned for three years for beating up crack cocaine dealers and robbing them of their stash and their money, any number of whom may have had reason to look for revenge. After his release, Hughes seemed to have reformed his ways. He dedicated himself to boxing, making his way rapidly up the ranks with victories over the likes of Tocker Pudwill, Anthony Stephens, Adrian Stone, and Rupa.

Hughes' body was located just a few hundred yards from where his pickup truck had been found abandoned by railroad tracks near an area known for drug traffic. The truck had been driven down the tracks and become stuck. Signs of someone trying to free the truck were found—but there was no sign of what had happened to Hughes.

A missing person report was filed after the truck was discovered. Mobile sheriff Jack Tillman, a former welterweight contender and brother of Hughes' manager, headed up the investigation. Friends, family, and members of the Mobile fight community gathered for searches through the swampy area near the railroad tracks.

(Continued on page 72)

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Jesse James Hughes

(Continued from page 71)

Police arrested Steven O. Byrd, who has had past dealings with Hughes, on an outstanding warrant and questioned him extensively about the fighter. But Byrd passed a lie detector test and is not considered a suspect. The sheriff's department said no witnesses could place Hughes with Byrd, who claimed he had not seen the fighter in years.

"The police stopped me and a girl James used to date and said they had been told that I had been seen with James Hughes at a hotel on [the day the truck was found]," Byrd told the *Mobile Press-Register*. "I told them I hadn't seen James since 1991.

"I would never do anything in the world to hurt him. I had heard he had some problems at 'The Bottom' [the drug-infested area in the Mobile suburb of Theodore, near where the body was found]. He was robbing black dealers. He would score $100 [worth of crack], catch them with a hook, and knock them out."

According to Dinkins, who has known Byrd since childhood, if Hughes and Byrd were indeed together, it could only have been bad news. "I don't know what James would have been doing with him," Dinkins said. "I can't see it being any good."

At press time, Byrd remaind jailed on a bad check charge, with a bond reportedly still set at $200,000.

"This has really gotten to be a mystery," said Jerry Hughes. "I was told by the sheriff's department they've gotten more calls on this than anything they have worked on, and no one has asked for the reward."

While the mystery of Hughes' fate continues, those around him still struggle daily with the loss. A crowd of some 300 mourners attended the funeral, where Hughes' casket was taken to the grave site in an open horse-drawn carriage. The pallbearers rode next to the casket dressed in black cowboy hats, and Hughes' trademark hat was laid atop the coffin before it was buried.

Hughes left behind a wife, one child, and two stepchildren. The James Hughes Reward Fund ($3,500 at press time) has been established at the Whitney Bank of Alabama. Donations can be sent to Post Office Box 9789, Mobile, AL 36691. Any money not given out as a reward will be put in trust for the children.

Dinkins worked with Hughes up to 12 hours a day while the fighter was on work-release from prison, finding him a construction job and training him every evening in the gym. The relationship continued when Hughes was released.

"He'd eat here every evening, and then we'd go to the gym," Dinkins said. "We grew to be real, real close with each other. He was a good guy to be around. He was a character. He was funny and he was down-to-earth, just a good ol' country boy.

"James did a lot for kids. He brought kids to the gym all the time. He bagged groceries for charity. James had a lot of good in him."

Jerry Hughes is leaving Mobile. He has already rented an apartment in Mississippi, and plans to move the family soon. The pain of losing his son under such bizarre circumstances has taken its toll. He leaves for work each morning with a remembrance of his son.

"There's just too many memories to stay here," he said. "I watch him every morning on one of the tapes of his fights. I'll put a tape in and watch him knock one of those boys out. It keeps him with me.

"I knew him as my son. I knew I liked to watch him fight, but I had no idea how popular he had become. I didn't realize. He got like Elvis Presley in the music world. That's what he was like in the boxing world. He had it all in his hands." ■

Tommy Deas Jr. is a sportswriter for the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) News and a frequent contributor to The Ring.

What If ...

(Continued from page 39)

Only 20 years old, Ayala, whose nickname of "El Torito" means "The Little Bull," appeared to be everything that Moore was—and more. Moore was 12-0 (9); Ayala was 22-0 (19). Moore was a beautifully built slugger who engaged in thrill-a-minute fights; Ayala was a stocky, almost chubby, barrel-chested left hook-artist with startling one-punch power.

A smiling and intelligent young man, Moore entered the ring expecting to win; painfully shy and modest, Ayala climbed through the ropes expecting to kill his opponent. El Torito was one of those rare charismatic fighters, like a young Roberto Duran, who seemed to embody the savagery and primal underpinnings of the sport. This was a fighter who, at 14 years of age, had sparred on even terms with devastating welterweight Pipino Cuevas, prompting Lupe

(Continued on page 74)

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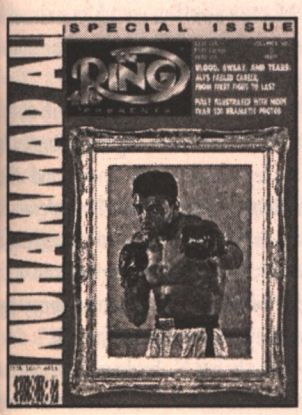

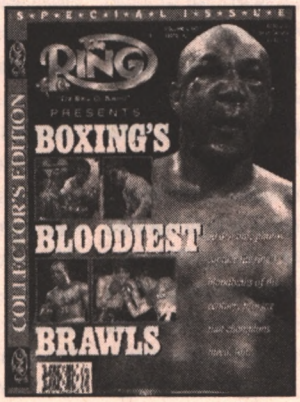

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What If ...

(Continued from page 72)

Sanchez, Cuevas' manager, to ask his fighter, "Aren't you ashamed—a 14-year-old boy doing that to you?"

Moore and his handlers couldn't deny the magnetism of Ayala. "Davey can receive his own recognition based on his achievements," said Moore's manager-trainer, Leon Washington. Even Moore was bothered by Ayala's notoriety: "Everywhere I go, it was always, 'Davey Moore, yeah! But what about *Ayala*?' Never any credit for myself, always, 'When you gonna fight Tony Ayala Jr.?'"

The answer was never. Not that either camp didn't want the fight, or so each side claimed. However, cruel fate saw both fighters' careers take drastically different roads, neither of which led to an encounter inside the squared circle.

In 1982, a megafight between Ayala and the legendary Roberto Duran was foiled when the latter lost to nonentity Kirkland Laing. In 1983, a Moore fight against the number-one ranked Ayala seemed destined to happen when Torito, already on probation for sexual assault, and saddled with other run-ins with the law, was charged with burglary and rape. This time there would be no pleas for leniency, and the charges wouldn't be dropped.

On June 21, Ayala was sentenced to 35 years in prison. The rage that made him so special inside the ring had destroyed him outside of it.

With Ayala out of the picture, it was Moore who ultimately faced Duran in a fight the New Yorker was expected to win with ease. Instead, a well-conditioned and motivated Duran, aided by a thumbing that started Moore's eye swelling at the end of round one, used all of his experience and a damaging body attack to stop Moore in eight rounds.

Moore laid off for nine months, split with Washington, and came back against clubfighter Monte Oswald. He stopped Oswald, took out a shot Wilfred Benitez in two rounds, and then lost via disqualification to Frenchman Louis Acaries. It would be 16 months before Moore would fight again. In 1985, Mike McCallum (twice) and Carlos Santos pulled out of championship defenses against Moore. When the former champion did reenter the ring in 1986, he suffered a 10th-round stoppage at the hands of Buster Drayton. Another six-month layoff ensued. A win over trialhorse Cecil Pettigrew landed him a shot against Lupe Aquino on the undercard of the Leonard-Hagler bout, with the winner promised a bout with WBC super welterweight champion Duane Thomas. Aquino brutalized Moore and stopped him in the fifth round.

Moore would lose his next bout to newcomer John David Jackson, despite knocking Jackson down twice, then mount a mini-comeback in 1988, notching two knockouts against lower-echelon fighters. Then he lost his life in a bizarre accident. An unoccupied vehicle, parked in the driveway of his Holmdel, New Jersey home, began to drift. Attempting to stop it, Moore somehow became caught beneath its wheels. He was dead at the age of 29.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

"I don't have anything personal against Tony Ayala Jr.," explains Moore, the WBA junior middleweight champion. "So don't be makin' this into some kinda grudge match. He's ranked number one and I'm the champion, and I'm gonna show him why I am. That's what this game is about. Proving who's best." But that isn't all, and Moore, as well as most boxing insiders, knows it. It rankles Moore that Ayala receives more attention, even adulation. A smiling, pleasant personality, combined with a rugged chin, good power, and a willingness to slug it out in the trenches, should have made Moore a star. But until Moore beats his rival in the ring, he won't be able to escape the giant shadow of Ayala.

Ayala's camp is ecstatic about his shot at Moore's title. "We missed a big opportunity last year, with the legal mixup, you know, and didn't get a shot at Roberto Duran," said Tony Ayala Sr., the fighter's father, trainer, and co-manager. "Torito would have walked through Duran at this weight, and it would have been a big-money fight for Tony, but, hey, now we go for the belt."

Moore certainly has his backers. Supporters of the WBA champion cite his solid chin, fast hands, and ability to move as pluses that will negate many of Ayala's strengths. However, Las Vegas casts its vote for Ayala, establishing him as a 8-5 favorite.

THE FIGHT

Round 1: Ayala moves straight out. Moore circles cautiously, shooting out a jab that misses. Moore scores first with a soft jab. Ayala lands a thudding bodyshot, and Moore immediately counters with a solid right to the head of Ayala. Moore moves away and Ayala follows. Moore scores cleanly with an uppercut from close range. The fighters clinch, and Ayala muscles Moore into the ropes. The chunky Ayala looks to be the stronger of the two. Ayala scores with a left to the body and

cross, and Moore immediately answers with a left-right.

Round 2: Moore's corner tells him to use his jab to keep Ayala off him, and the champion double-jabs to start the round. Ayala traps Moore in a neutral corner, but the New Yorker slips away. Ayala misses with a leaping left hook, and Moore makes him pay with a sharp, stinging right. Ayala appears unfazed. Moore scores with a combination. Ayala lands a big lead hook that seems to stun Moore. Ayala concentrates on the body, landing two digging blows to the ribs. Moore clinches. Ayala lands with a right after referee Davey Pearl tells him to break. Moore misses with a jab, but scores again with a right uppercut as the fighters move inside. Torito appears to hurt Moore with a lead right with seconds to go.

Round 3: Moore is out of his corner quickly, but if he's planning on catching Ayala off-guard, it doesn't work. Ayala slips a big lead right and buries his glove in Moore's chest. Moore backs up a step and Ayala moves his hands, firing shots from all angles. Moore falls to the canvas while clutching his groin. Pearl indicates a low blow and sends Ayala to a neutral corner. Moore will have up to five minutes to recover. Moore is walking off the low blow. No point has been deducted. Pearl admonishes Ayala and tells him to keep his punches up. Moore appears ready to continue. Ayala offers his gloves and Moore taps them. Moore is suddenly very aggressive. He tries uppercuts and hooks and moves ahead. The pace if frantic. The fighters exchange briskly on the inside. The final punch is a Moore hook that convinces Ayala to clinch.

Round 4: Moore again begins aggressively. The fighters trade from a distance. Moore doubles up on his jab and both score. Ayala moves inside, taking punishment, and pummels the champion with a left-right and a lead right. Ayala is scoring to both the body and head. It's Moore who lands the best punch of the fight, a right with Ayala moving in. Ayala pauses, then continues to come forward. Ayala traps Moore along the ropes. Moore wants out, but Ayala uses his body to keep his foe pinned. Moore eats a big right and sags from a hook to the body. His knees momentarily buckle. Ayala is peppering the champion with shots, but Moore is very cool; he's blocking or slipping most of them. Moore responds with an uppercut at the bell.

Round 5: Moore's corner works on swelling under the fighter's right eye. Ayala walks to ring-center. Moore steps to his left, keeping some distance. Ayala is anxious to get to Moore's body. Moore lands a straight left. The two trade rights. Now Moore explodes with a double-right to the head and body and another right to the head. Ayala returns fire, punching furiously. Moore is backed to the ropes but spins out. Pearl warns Ayala for another low blow. There's a heavy exchange, after which both fighters regroup. The pace has been unbelievable. Both fighters stop punching. Moore shows some lateral movement. Ayala stalks him, but appears content to just follow him.

Round 6: Moore opens with a borderline left and deflects a counter. Moore is on the ropes again. He dips down and is caught with a short, chopping right. Moore is hurt early. Ayala lands a crushing hook, and Moore's knee touches the canvas. Pearl sends Ayala to a neutral corner. Moore is looking at Pearl, watching the count. He's up at seven. Ayala storms across the ring, but Moore manages to tie Torito up. Pearl is forced to break the two. The challenger bangs away in close. Moore tries to fight back, letting loose with both hands and scoring. Some of the steam appears to have gone from the champion's punches. Ayala drives home a hook to the head. It looks like Moore has suffered a cut over his already swollen right eye. The two men are lying on each other at the end of the round.

Round 7: The swelling beneath Moore's right eye has worsened, and the cut above it is seeping blood. Both fighters look weary for the first time in this non-stop action fight. Moore flicks a jab that lands. Ayala comes forward. The pace has slowed considerably. Moore continues to move, and Ayala appears content to shuffle after him. Moore misses with a lead right, then pumps two nice jabs into Ayala's face. Ayala suddenly erupts with a barrage of punches. Torito again lands his big hook to the head. Moore pitches forward and grabs Ayala around the waist to keep from going down. Ayala is banging punches off the back of the clinging Moore. Pearl rushes in and breaks the two. He wags a finger in the face of Ayala, warning him for rabbit-punching. Ayala moves past Pearl. Moore throws out a lazy left and guns a desperation right that misses. Ayala answers with a cross that snaps Moore's head back, then grazes him with a winging left as Moore collapses onto the canvas. Pearl is counting. Moore gamely rises to his feet at nine. Ayala drives home a hook to the body and a short right uppercut. Moore appears defenseless. He's taking a real beating; the only thing keeping him up are Ayala's punches. Washington comes into the ring, but Pearl has already stopped the fight. It's over at the 2:19 mark.

THE AFTERMATH

A disconsolate Moore lies on his back in his

(Continued on page 77)

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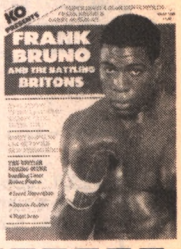

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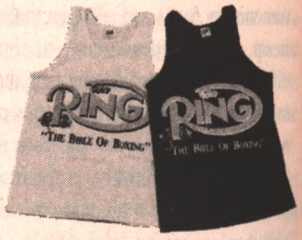

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What If ...

(Continued from page 75)

ressing room, still in his boxing trunks and hand raps. "It was a war," he says without opening his yes. "No one can say that I don't have a champi- n's heart. I'm young. I'll be back. I hope he gives e the rematch I've been promised."

The New Yorker opens his eyes and turns his ead toward the group of reporters. "The people ill want to see one, won't they? It was a hell of a ight, huh?"

In the new champion's dressing room, the usic is loud, but it's drowned out by the din ised by the friends, handlers, and media crowded nto the small chamber. Torito sits quietly on a etal folding chair in the center of the chaos, his ody still sweating as he fingers the championship elt draped across his lap. Tony Sr. holds court midst a half-dozen writers.

"Tony's got a lot of big-money fights right ere in this division," he says. "He can fight uran, or better yet, go after Benitez—if Benitez ould get into the ring with him, which I doubt. nd Moore earned a rematch. Then we can go fter the middleweights."

Hearing that, Torito looks up and breaks into a mile. "Hagler!" he says. "He means Marvelous Marvin Hagler!" ■

Charter Oak

(Continued from page 43)

ight and nine years old who look up to the older ids," he said. "Sometimes when I come in here I ool around, and they fool around. If I'm serious, hey're serious. Whatever I do, they do."

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Bryan Ethier is a freelance writer based in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

The Prize Fighters

(Continued from page 53)

ment. "We gave him a weekly allowance, all advanced against purses," he said. "And we never made an effort to collect it."

Caluwaert thought it would be a challenge, and that in the right environment, Spinks would thrive and change. "I wanted him to build up his self-confidence himself, and one of my biggest mistakes was succeeding in doing that."

Caluwaert sighed. "We were able to get him a driver's license, which was shortly lost based on a DUI [driving under the influence of alcohol] only a few months after we initiated our campaign. I think he allows himself to be overdependent on whoever may be there to offer help at the time. If you give him the vehicle and fill it with gas, he can steer it, but when it runs out of gas, he's looking for someone to refuel the tank. He seems to have been willing to settle for standards that are not necessarily defined by money; he seems to be content in living off his fame, and living day to day."

When Leon lost his license, Robell McMillar, Caluwaert's assistant, would pick him up every morning to take him to the gym and bring him back home. "Leon would show up, but then we would drop him off at the gym and go back to pick him up and not find him. He might be at a bar having a beer," Caluwaert said.

Caluwaert and his team took Leon through eight fights before they decided he should retire. "I thought maybe I shouldn't let him fight anymore," Caluwaert said. "'Leon, I'm not sure we want to pursue this career any further. Maybe we can do other things—market memorabilia, maybe get you involved with community work,' and he said, 'No, I really want this.' I suggested to Leon that his greatness may be intact because he made his decision to quit when it was time, vs. to have his greatness to be placed in mockery and give that shot to the press one more time. It doesn't penetrate because he doesn't see the big picture.

"What we experienced is that we're just one of those links in that chain. He's a unique optimist in that he believes everything will be okay. Period. I think he wakes up in the morning saying, 'I'll get through the day.'"

Caluwaert added, "If Leon gravitates to the position where he was when we first met him, I wouldn't be surprised to imagine the sound of coins dropping into a tin cup."

(Continued on page 78)

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The Prize Fighters

(Continued from page 77)

McMillar feels that Leon's wife Betty was a negative influence. "Betty's attitude was that she wanted to be more important than Leon. His weakness is nagging. If they needed some food and she didn't want Leon to go to the gym, she would say, 'Leon, we need to go shopping.' Leon couldn't stand the nagging. He's a lonely, scared type of man. He's the type of man who could not be by himself."

McMillar knew Leon for almost five years. "I don't think John [Caluwaert] was a sucker," he said. "We all lost a lot of money and a lot of effort. We were dreamers. But it was an experience. Leon was living in a bad environment. No lights, no gas, water shut off. The day John showed up was a day before they were going to put him in the street. I heard a lot of negative things about Leon. He was an older man, now, married. He got children and grandchildren. In my head, I say maturity needs another chance. It was an opportunity to do something positive. I said that I believed it can work if we all put our best efforts. I said, 'Leon, this is your last chance. You're pushing 40.'"

McMillar became close friends with Leon, and they used to drive around and talk. "Out of his family, he told me that he was the most mistreated," McMillar said. "'Dinnertime would come,' he said, 'and my mother would give me the biggest piece of chicken. I found out it was the back with no meat.' We would talk and he would cry.

"Michael turned out perfect. Leon turned out not so perfect," McMillar added gravely. "I don't like the word pity. I don't think it's his fault. Something happened in his life that messed up his mind. If you spend enough hours with him, you can influence him to do almost anything.

"They say in the Bible that God takes care of babes and fools. I believe that's what's going to happen to him."

Leon lives with his second wife, Betty, in a small town outside of Chicago. They met in 1980, at Archie's Cocktail Lounge in Detroit. "I didn't know who he was. I said, 'Are you Leon Spinks for real?'" she said. "I liked his kindness. He was nothing like people said. He was a big, cuddly teddy bear. He loved to laugh, loved to tell jokes, and," she added, "I liked tall mens anyway."

Leon, at 41, complains that when he works out in a gym, people take his false teeth. And at a nearby restaurant where he had lunch, a woman exclaims, "It's that boxer! Leon Spritz!" He laughs. "People see me and say, 'No, you're not Leon Spinks. Leon Spinks doesn't have no teeth.' People take my teeth. They do weird things—people are weird."

He carries himself with the pomp of a former champion, but his face looks sullen and bored. Still, when he grins, he looks like that smiling Leon Spinks who won the heavyweight championship.

Even Spinks admits that he was not the best-trained athlete. "I tried to do some sneaky things to get by," he admitted. "I was in the service. No sense of me trying to go out and run. I was too tired to do anything. I might run at night when people didn't see me.

"When I beat Muhammad Ali, I went out and partied, I dance all night long. I was wild. My bodyguard had to carry me into the hotel, I was so tired.

"People call themselves my friends, pat you on the back. 'I'm from your hometown.' That's the way it was. Money got stolen from the lawyers. All my money that was invested was gone. I was scared to track the guy down in Detroit. My money went with him. I had $3.75-million. I'm a friendly guy. I would give you the shirt off my back. I try and do the best, and they stab me in the back and try and hurt me. I regret the way I was. People took advantage of me. I can't change nothing that I did. I had my goals, my dream, and I went for it. I tried to get what I could.

"I used cocaine, smoked a little pot, drank a little liquor, and went home," he admitted. "But never in training. On my free time. I'm an alcoholic because I can't handle alcohol.

"Michael was the pet. I'm the one getting the whipping. Michael was Mom's favorite. We had to clean the house. He got by with a lot of stuff. She used to beat me up all the time. She was staying in shape. Mom had her faults, but she didn't drive when she drank. And then I think she got religion. My father was all right. My mother didn't like the way he lived. She threw him out a long time ago. I was not older than six or seven. I was Leon Spinks Jr. I would get my butt whipped because she didn't like him. She took a lot of stuff out on me.

"What kind of hell I was going through," he said, staring off into space. "She used the lamp cord and everything she could get her hands on. This went on for a long time. When I turned 15 and got my first job and I got my first paycheck, my mom beat me to the mailbox. She gave me what she wanted. I left home. I was out on the streets. I was hustling, trying to keep some money in my pockets. I told Mom I was leaving—that was the 10th grade. I was grown.

"I'm not allowing people to take advantage of me now. I'm more aware of it. I got a big heart. Betty made me strong. She has a way of putting me in check. I feel sorry for people and I try and help them as much as I can. Some people take advantage of that.

"I think my dreams are my own. I still have my dreams. I must be doing something right. People are still talking about me." ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 55)

Rivera parlayed the discipline into a high school diploma and a successful amateur boxing career. He won two Western Massachusetts Golden Gloves titles, two New England Golden Gloves crowns, and a bronze medal at the 1991 PAL Nationals. He went 40-10 as an amateur, and when decisions suddenly started going against him, he made his own decision and turned pro.

After seven fights, Rivera split with his first manager and signed on with Tankanow and adviser Frank Rohacik. His trainer, Carlos Garcia, has been with him since he first set foot inside the Worcester Boys and Girls Club.

"I liked his attitude, his work habits, and his dedication to the boxing game," Rohacik said of Rivera. "I think he has what it takes to get the job done: power, a good chin, and heart. Those are things you can't teach."

A lean 5'8" welterweight, Rivera has rolled along, beating a string of anonymous New Englanders. In December 1994, he met Genaro Andujar, a former New York Golden Gloves champion who, early in his career, was put on the fast track and became an opponent. Rivera stopped him in two rounds. Two months later, Rivera scored a 10-round decision over Troy Smith for the state welterweight title. A boxer-puncher, Rivera moves in behind a good jab to set up his powerpunches.

"Jose is 100 percent committed to being a world champion," said Tankanow. "He is always in phenomenal condition. That's what separates him from other fighters."

But like most young fighters, the 22-year-old has yet to be tested. He has reached that awkward point in his career when he must make the jump from prospect to contender. In June, he took a step in that direction by stopping Clarence Coleman in three rounds. And while he showed some defensive flaws, Rivera displayed an impressive offensive arsenal against a veteran who challenged for the IBF junior welterweight title in 1992, and has gone the distance with Larry Barnes, Tony Marshall, and John Duplessis.

Coleman rattled Rivera with left hands in the first round, resulting in a small cut on his right eyelid. But by the second, Rivera was dictating the action with his jab. In the third, he paralyzed Coleman with a right to the body and dropped him with a flurry that was capped by a hook. Coleman rose, but Rivera pounded away at his opponent's head and body until the referee stopped the contest.

"That win told me I was improving," said Rivera. "I looked at the tape and still saw some mistakes, but I know I'm improving."

A record of 18-0 (14) has earned Rivera a number-15 ranking by the USBA and a number-12 ranking by the NABF. But he is still yearning for a breakthrough fight that provides him national exposure.

"We'll fight anyone ranked ahead of him," said Tankanow.

Rohacik was more specific. "I think he is one fight away from a breakthrough fight," he said. "I'd very much like to see Jose fight someone like David Gonzales or [former junior welterweight champion] Jake 'The Snake' Rodriguez."

To increase Rivera's exposure, his management has considered several options that would require relocating the fighter. And here is where you learn more about Rivera the person. He has hedged with each opportunity, clinging to New England, an area the rest of the boxing world generally scoffs at.

Two years ago, Rivera was sent to New York City to train at the famed Gleason's Gym. He shared an apartment in Brooklyn with middleweight prospect Raymond Joval, and though he liked his roommate and was surrounded by boxing people at Gleason's, he felt alone. His wife, Veronica, was pregnant with their son A.J. (now two years old), and Rivera realized his responsibility was to be home. So he left New York.

Two months ago, former light heavyweight champion and world-class trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad invited Rivera to live and train with him in Las Vegas. A promotional deal with Top Rank was part of the package, but again Rivera decided he couldn't leave his family—boxing or biological—behind.

As we went to press, Rivera was in Pensacola, Florida, training at the camp of IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones. Jones and his attorney, Stan Levin, who heads Square Ring Inc., plan on promoting young fighters. Rivera hopes to sign with them.

"We want to look at the best young fighters out there," explained Levin. "We have a number of television dates coming up, and we plan on filling them with good young talent."

Rivera clearly has talent. All that is missing is a vehicle to showcase his skills. One that will carry his name, if not his body, out of New England. ■

Robert Cassidy is a frequent contributor to The Ring.

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Norris-Vaden

(Continued from page 45)

free-TV. This is a hatefest that deserves as large an audience as is possible. Hell, promoter Don King won't even have to hype the fight. Norris and Vaden have already been doing that for years.

At some point, one of Fox's announcers is sure to serve up the obligatory cliche, "These guys really don't like each other." *Don't like each other?* Norris and Vaden despise each other with a frightening intensity that is usually reserved for dueling WWF superheroes. Only this is *real.*

Why do Norris, 28, and Vaden, 27, loathe each other? Both admit their animosity is something far greater than a professional rivalry. "The reason? It's personal. I'd rather keep that to myself," Norris told us. "There is a piece to the puzzle you're missing," acknowledged Vaden. "A personal thing."

What we *can* tell you is that in 1990, Vaden, still an amateur, returned to his hometown of San Diego after a stay in Washington. Norris was already a city superstar, having won the 154-pound title for the first time by crushing John "The Beast" Mugabi. (Norris was raised in Texas. He relocated to San Diego before the start of his pro career.)

"I had heard about Terry before he was a champ," said Vaden. "Then one day I put on the TV and there he was challenging [then-WBA junior middleweight champion] Julian Jackson. He did great in the first round, and I was really excited for him. Then in the second round ... "

Vaden did not finish the story. Instead, he began a laugh that turned into a roar. The source of his delight? In the aforementioned second round, Jackson kayoed Norris with one punch.

What happened the one and only time Norris and *Vaden* exchanged punches? Depends on who you believe. The fighters agree on one thing: They sparred one round at Murphy's Gym in San Diego. Norris said it happened "a year, a year and a half ago." Vaden said it was in 1992. First, Norris' story.

"We started boxing, and he couldn't handle it. He had to get out of there. I busted his nose and he started to cry. If people don't believe me, I have tapes. Abel Sanchez [Norris' former trainer] was working with him, and Abel told my father that Paul said he had never been hit like that. Abel told him, 'If I ever let you fight Terry, it'll be like taking a lamb to the slaughter.'"

And Vaden's side:

"I had sparred with a couple of guys before Terry came in. He didn't try to do anything crazy, and neither did I. He did give me a small cut on the nose—it was like a small speck of blood from a bloody nose. Terry Norris made Paul Vaden *cry?* Nonsense!"

At the time of that sparring session, there were no bad feelings between the two. That came later, said Vaden, when Norris called him a wimp in the San Diego *Union-Tribune.*

"He made himself look silly," said Vaden, laughing no longer. "I had had only 11 or 12 pro fights, and he was already treating me like *I* was the best. After he said that in the paper, I dropped down from 160 to 154. That's why I'm fighting junior middleweight."

Responded Norris, "I don't know how it started, but I'll call him a wimp to his face. A few years ago, the first time I met him, I knew he was a snake. He's the kind of guy who throws rocks and hides behind somebody else."

In two separate interviews each with THE RING, Norris and Vaden sent barbs and insults flying like punches in a rapid-fire flurry. Consider:

Vaden: "He said Vincent Pettway [from whom Vaden won the title] would knock me out. I've always felt he wanted someone else to beat me so he wouldn't have to fight me."

Norris: "I pick against him because anybody that steps in the ring with him I root for. I definitely don't want him to win. When he fights me and beats me, I'll shut up."

Or this Freudian exchange:

Vaden: "I'm really content with who I am. I don't think he is ... if he even knows who he is. Otherwise, why would Paul Vaden upset him?"

Norris: "He's the one having problems with himself. I think he's jealous. I've been in the game for a long time and I've accomplished a lot of things. I have two big, beautiful houses and 13 cars. *He* doesn't know who *he* is. He wants to be Michael Jackson."

Or this fight analysis:

Norris: "He's a boxer who can't punch, and I can box or punch. We'll box for a minute, then I'll start pushing him around. I'll wear him out and knock him out. I know he'll wimp out like a little pussy."

Vaden: "The beautiful thing is we're in the same division, and I can do my thing without spending an hour in jail. He does have a power advantage, but my size and speed will be overwhelming. He'll get flustered because he'll be hit more than he's ever been hit. I could see him losing control. And remember, Terry has a *very* weak chin. It doesn't take much. People forget *Luis Santana* had him hurt."

Fighters, return to your respective corners and wait for the opening bell. On November 4, Norris and Vaden will be handsomely paid to settle their differences, which are deeply rooted in something neither is willing to reveal. Their fight probably belongs in a back-alley, but they'll settle for a prize ring. We can't wait to see what the loser will have to say.

***

Do Not Read This Part Of The Story! It's Private! From Terry to Paul, a personal message: "I truly want to fight you, and if you think you can beat me, stop all that talking like a little girl and let's fight."

From Paul to Terry, a poetic response:

Norris wants Vaden? I accept this dare
Gonzales, Santana, etc.—it won't compare
My quickness of hand has not a peer
Your chin resembles an old chandelier
You'll see that the ring is my safest home
As I accurately drumbeat numbers on your dome
"Terrible Terry"—what a suitable name
Enraged with fire, can't control the flame
I'm smart enough not to listen to what was said
You were dumb enough to believe the clippings you read
Norris wants Vaden? Symptoms suggest you're scared
Humiliation is torture! So be prepared
Norris wants Vaden? Better think again
I don't know how to lose, only how to win
Remember what you said to me on the phone?
Classiness caused me to dismiss it and take the throne
You see, I've knocked too many of your boats
To justify your jealous and lying quotes
So let me be fair and offer this advice
Expect to be greeted each round by ice
There's nothing you do I can't endure
Whatever you bring, I will bring more
Similarities are few concerning the gift of glove
You punch from anger, I do it from love
But indeed I always prevail, "little misfit"
My uppercuts will make you eager to quit
Overwhelmed you will be by my speed, craftiness, and size
This, "little man," you will, too, soon recognize

In Truth,
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BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

So "Iron Mike" is back in business, and Don King's got him. Well, collectors have him, too. Tyson's release from prison has brought collectors back to Tyson memorabilia in droves. And with this crowd comes the speculators and con artists, so get ready. What's really out there? And what's really rare?

Tyson has been fighting since 1985, and nearly all his pre-title memorabilia is hard to find and very dear. Take his debut fight program and poster. As I write this, an auction is about to come off in which that program (the fight, in case you've forgotten, was a first-round kayo of one Hector Mercedes) is being offered. The auctioneer estimates $700 for the decidedly unattractive piece. My guess would be that it'll bring much less than that, but I've been wrong before. We'll see. There were at least three different posters for that fight, all different sizes. The 22"x28" and 14"x20" are most desirable and will run you $600 to $1,000 each, if you can find them.

Memorabilia from other 1985 fights is pricey, but there is good news for collectors who want posters of Tyson's big fights: There are several different posters for the Berbick, Holmes, Tubbs, and Douglas bouts, and some can be had for as little as $100 through collector publications such as *Boxing Collectors' News*. (Now that Tyson has resumed his career, we'll have to see what happens to those prices.) Other fights during Tyson's grand romp through the heavyweight division vary in price by their rarity.

One piece that is definitely *not* rare is the Tyson-Douglas program. This is a gigantic, beautiful program from a historic fight. Lots were printed, but you'll still have to pay $25-50 per copy. But folks who shelled out $40 to watch Tyson pound out Peter McNeeley shouldn't complain *too* much, should they?

There are lots of bogus Tyson autographs out there, as well as early Tyson signatures that may have been produced by an autopen. Tyson's signature has also changed over the years, and I, for one, cannot authenticize it. A Tyson signature on a personal check has been known to sell for more than $100. If Tyson ever hits the sportscard show circuit, that price will plummet.

Full Tyson tickets are very hard to find. Nowadays, these beauties usually are richly illustrated, and their price nears or exceeds the program price. Remember, tickets without their stubs sell for one-third or less of what a full ticket will demand.

Tyson has not signed any card deals that I'm aware of, but that hasn't stopped opportunists from having unauthorized cards made of him. One of these is in a set called "Sex Maniacs," proving once and for all that boxing memorabilia can get as seedy as the sport itself. A Tyson doll, complete with gold tooth and dressed in prison garb, sells for about $25. See what I mean?

Fight-worn Tyson equipment is very hard to find and will be quickly gobbled up when offered. The hobby is smarting from some bogus claims on Ali stuff that emerged in the past few years, so good provenance must be established. Equipment from Hector Camacho and Vinny Pazienza is pretty easy to authenticize, but Tyson wears no fancy dress in the ring, so such equipment is difficult to identify.

There is one thing I try not to talk too much about, and that's the investment potential of boxing memorabilia, mainly because there isn't much, if any. It is true, however, that if Tyson should again unify the title, he will be considered by nearly everyone as one of the greatest fighters of all-time. (Many already feel that way about him.) Memorabilia of all-time greats appreciates, or at least holds its value. The trick is to not pay too much in the first place.

There are lots of high-rollers with more money than brains who get taken in by hype and, as a result, overpay. Don't let them—or the hype—spook you into "investing" in Tyson stuff. Just buy what you like and be thankful you live in a time when you can witness boxing history—and own a little piece of it, too. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of ***Boxing Collectors' News*** *and may be contacted through* THE RING.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of July 1995, and the WBC and IBF ratings were compiled as of August 1995.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	–	C	–
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	–
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	6	8
Tony Tucker (USA)	3	3	9
Evander Holyfield (USA)	4	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	5	5	6
Frank Bruno (GB)	6	–	–
Alexandr Zolkin (RUS)	7	11	11
Larry Donald (USA)	8	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	9	9	–
Jeremy Williams (USA)	10	–	–
Francois Botha (SA)	–	2	1
Joe Hipp (USA)	13	4	3
Peter McNeeley (USA)	20	7	–
Lionel Butler (USA)	12	8	–
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	18	10	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	–	–	2
Buster Mathis Jr. (USA)	17	–	4
Corrie Sanders (SA)	11	–	5
Andrew Golota (POL)	14	12	7
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	IC	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Robert Daniels (USA)	1	4	12
Patrice Aouissi (FRA)	2	5	4
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	3	1	1
Torsten May (GER)	4	–	3
David Izeqwire (NIG)	5	–	9
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	6	8	–
Reynaldo Gimenez (ARG)	7	10	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	8	3	8
Terry Dunstan (GB)	9	–	–
Chris Byrd (USA)	10	–	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	2	2
Orlin Norris (USA)	11	6	10
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	–	7	–
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	13	9	–
Egerton Marcus (USA)	25	–	5
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	6
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	–	–	7

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	1	2	–
Mike McCallum (USA)	2	–	7
Montell Griffin (USA)	3	9	3
Ginger Tshabalala (SA)	4	12	8
Merqui Sosa (DR)	5	–	5
Jose Gomez (BRA)	6	1	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	7	–	–
Phillipe Michel (FRA)	8	8	12
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	9	–	–
Noel Magee (GB)	10	11	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	3	1
Lou Del Valle (USA)	21	4	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	12	5	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	6	9
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	7	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	–	10	–
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	–	–	2
William Guthrie (USA)	–	–	4
Darrin Allen (USA)	–	–	6
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Thulane Malinga (SA)	1	5	4
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	3	1	3
Michael Nunn (USA)	4	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	5	11	11
Luciano Torres (BRA)	6	3	–
Gary Ballard (SA)	7	–	–
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	8	8	–
Cecil McKenzie (USA)	9	–	–
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	10	–	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	2	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	–	4	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	18	6	9
Bryant Brannon (USA)	12	7	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	20	9	1
Mark Delaney (GB)	24	10	–
Chris Eubank (GB)	–	–	5
Jean-Claude M'blye (FRA)	11	–	6
Eric Lucas (CAN)	–	–	7
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	21	–	8
Daniel Perez (USA)	15	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Quincy Taylor (USA)	C	5	2
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Richie Woodhall (GB)	1	7	5
Joe Lipsey (USA)	2	12	1
Julian Jackson (USA)	3	–	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	4	–	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	5	–	–
Otis Grant (CAN)	6	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	7	6	4
Buddy McGirt (USA)	8	–	–
Silvio Branco (ITA)	9	–	–
Rodney Toney (USA)	10	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	1	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	2	–
William Joppy (USA)	14	3	3
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	–	4	12
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	8	6
Zdravo Kostic (SERB)	15	9	–
Chongmo Kim (KOR)	–	10	–
Neville Brown (GB)	12	–	7
Howard Davis (USA)	–	–	8
Juan Viloria (COL)	–	–	9
Robert Allen (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	1	4	–
Bronco McKart (USA)	2	7	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	3	3	6
Winky Wright (USA)	4	2	–
Godfrey Nyakana (UGA)	5	12	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	6	8	–
Chang Taek Kim (KOR)	7	11	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	8	–	–
Keith Holmes (USA)	9	–	2
Luis Santana (DR)	10	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	1	11
Buddy McGirt (USA)	–	5	4
Julio Cesar Green (USA)	–	6	8
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	9	1
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	10	5
Raul Marquez (USA)	13	–	3
Anthony Stephens (USA)	–	–	7
Hernan Mena (COL)	–	–	9
Giovanni Pretorious (SA)	26	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	2	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	4	1
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	3	6	3
Oba Carr (USA)	4	7	6
Vincent Phillips (USA)	5	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	6	3	7
Ray Lovato (USA)	7	–	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	9	5	–
Patrick Charpentier (FRA)	10	9	12
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	1	2
Andrei Pestryaev (RUS)	23	8	–

Tori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	10	5
Edwin Murillo (PAN)	20	–	8
James Hughes (USA)	–	–	9
Bronco McKart (USA)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	C
David Kamau (USA)	1	3	2
Ian Bergman (SA)	2	6	3
Hugo Pineda (COL)	3	4	1
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	4	1	–
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	9	4
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	6	–	–
Ross Hale (GB)	7	10	11
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	8	–	–
Brian Mitchell (SA)	9	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	2	–
Freddie Ladd (USA)	–	5	5
George Scott (USA)	–	7	–
Leonardo Mas (PR)	–	8	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	17	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	7
Giuseppe Sauli (ITA)	–	–	8
Rodney Moore (USA)	–	–	9
Darryll Tyson (USA)	12	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	C	–
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	1	–	7
Steve Johnston (USA)	2	–	5
Shane Mosley (USA)	3	–	–
Angel Mona (FRA)	4	–	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	5	12	4
Arturo Gatti (CAN)	6	–	–
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	7	–	–
Lamar Murphy (USA)	8	–	10
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	9	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	10	–	6
Miguel Julio (COL)	–	1	1
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	27	2	–
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	3	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	4	2
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	–	5	–
Antonio Rivera (PR)	–	6	–
Kacheed Lawal (DEN)	26	7	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	–	8	–
Dindo Canoy (PHIL)	–	9	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	17	10	8
John Lark (USA)	–	–	3
Eduardo Molina (COL)	–	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	C
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	1	3	5
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	5	12
Jesse James Leija (USA)	3	6	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	4	11	–
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	5	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	6	2	–
Floyd Havard (GB)	7	7	–
Djamel Lifa (FRA)	8	9	6
Boris Sinitsin (RUS)	9	–	4
Fred Liberatore (USA)	10	–	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	1	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	22	4	–
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	14	8	10
Edson Suxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	10	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	1
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	–	2
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	3
Calvin Grove (USA)	–	–	7
Ed Hopson (USA)	–	–	8
Cliff Samardin (AUSTRL)	19	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
Kevin Kelley (USA)	2	5	3
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	3	1
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	7	6
Mehdi Labdouni (FRA)	5	10	7
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	6	–	5
Carlos Rios (ARG)	7	–	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	8	–	9
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	9	–	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	10	–	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	12	1	2
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	2	10
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	4	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	17	6	8
Nobutoshi Hiranaka (JAP)	–	8	–
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	19	9	–
Victor Polo (COL)	24	–	4

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Naseem Hamed (GB)	1	3	3
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Erik Morales (MEX)	3	–	–
Julio Gervacio (DR)	4	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	5	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	6	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	7	–	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	8	5	–
Junior Jones (USA)	9	8	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	10	–	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	26	1	–
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	25	2	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	4	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	–	6	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	7	7
Tsuyoshi Harada (JAP)	–	9	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	11	10	–
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	1
Welcome Ncita (SA)	13	–	2
Anton Gilmore (SA)	14	–	4
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	5
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	6
Maui Diaz (USA)	–	–	8
Daniel Alicer (PR)	–	–	9
John Lewus (USA)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	C
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	1	6	–
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	2	–	12
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	1	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	–	6
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	5	–	–
John Armour (GB)	6	8	2
Pastor Maurin (ARG)	7	–	–
Ancee Gedeon (USA)	8	–	1
In Jin Chi (KOR)	9	9	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	10	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)	12	3	10
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	5	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	15	7	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	–	10	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	–	–	3
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	4
Paul Ayala (USA)	21	–	5
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	–	7
Sergio Reyes (USA)	26	–	8
Alex Yaqupoe (RUS)	–	–	9

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	1	5	5
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	3	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	3	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	4	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	5	–	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	7	1	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	8	2	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	9	–	–
Boy Aruan (INDO)	10	10	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	15	4	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	6	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	13	8	–
Adonis Cruz (NIC)	12	9	–
Jaji Sibali (SA)	24	–	1
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	2
Ricky Matulessi (INDO)	–	–	3
Jose Diaz (USA)	27	–	4
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	21	–	6
Julio Borboa (MEX)	19	–	7
Orlando Tobon (COL)	–	–	8
Domingo Sosa (DR)	18	–	9
Cesar Singo (EQU)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	3
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	9	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	4	4	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	5	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	6	6	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	7	–	–
Jake Matlala (SA)	8	–	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	9	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	22	3	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	5	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	–	7	–
Sung Tae Lim (KOR)	–	8	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	15	10	–
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	16	–	1
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	2
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	–	–	4
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	19	–	5
Vuyani Nene (SA)	–	–	6
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	7
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	–	8
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	–	–	9
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	C
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	C	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	6	2
Chiquita Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	4
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	3	7	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	1	1
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	6	–	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	7	4	5
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	8	5	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	9	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	10	–	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	–	2	6
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	3	–
Puma Kanehira (MEX)	–	8	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	9	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	3
Yani Malhendo (INDO)	–	–	7
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	20	–	8
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	9
James Wanene (KEN)	19	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	3	11
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	2	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	3	4	9
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	4	8	2
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	5	5	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	6	12	3
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	7	10	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	8	6	–
Yodsing Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	10	1	1
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	15	7	–
Nico Thomas (INDO)	–	9	–
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	11	4
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	5
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	22	–	6
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	7
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	8
Roger Espanola (PHIL)	12	–	10

CLASSIC

CLOUTING KRIEGER TO FORE!

From THE RING, January 1939

Hostak's conqueror hurls himself into the middleweight championship maelstrom. Solly was always tough, even in defeat

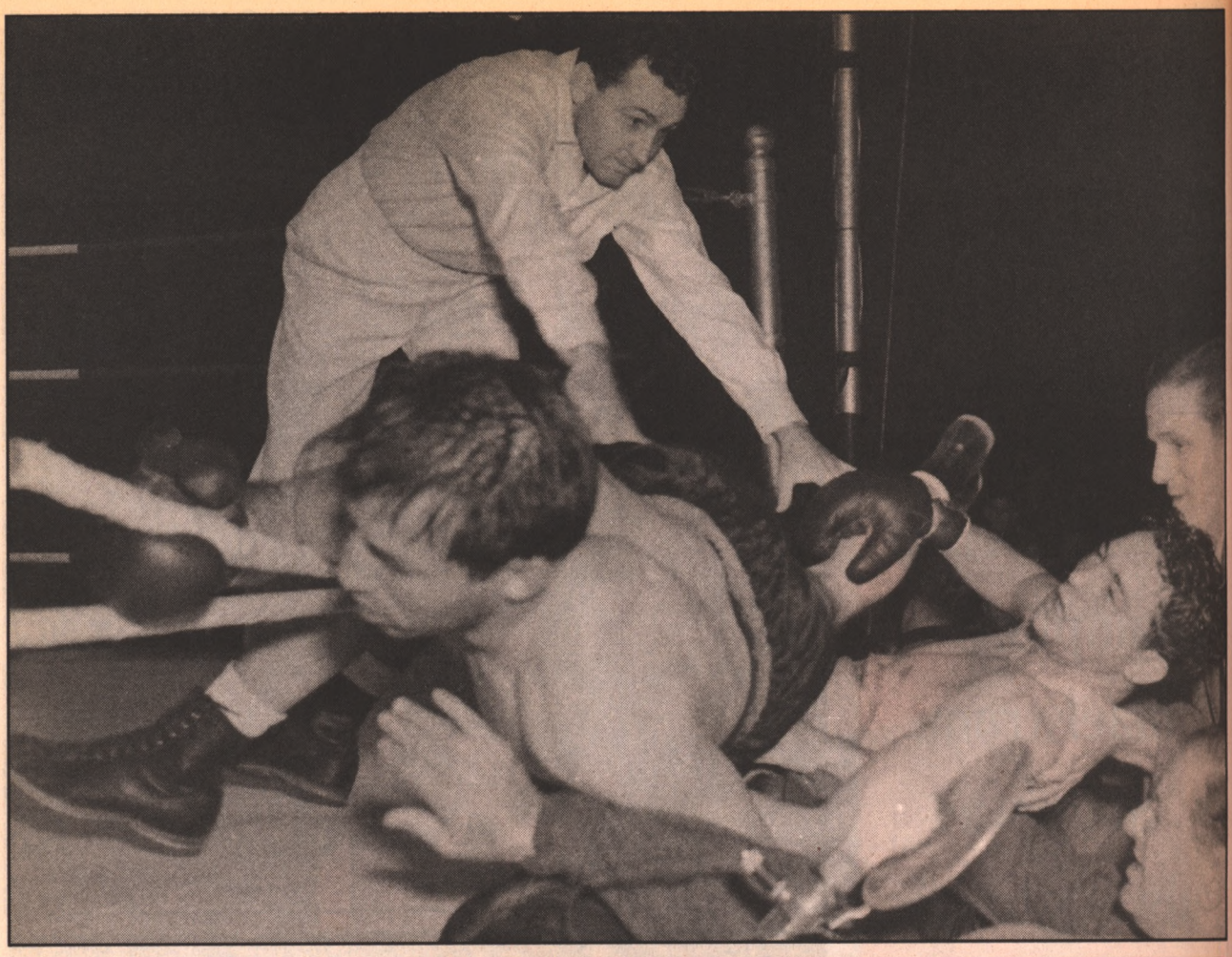
Krieger was streaking when he scored a seventh-round kayo of Harry Balsamo in December 1936. But he still had to wait two years for a crack at the middleweight title.

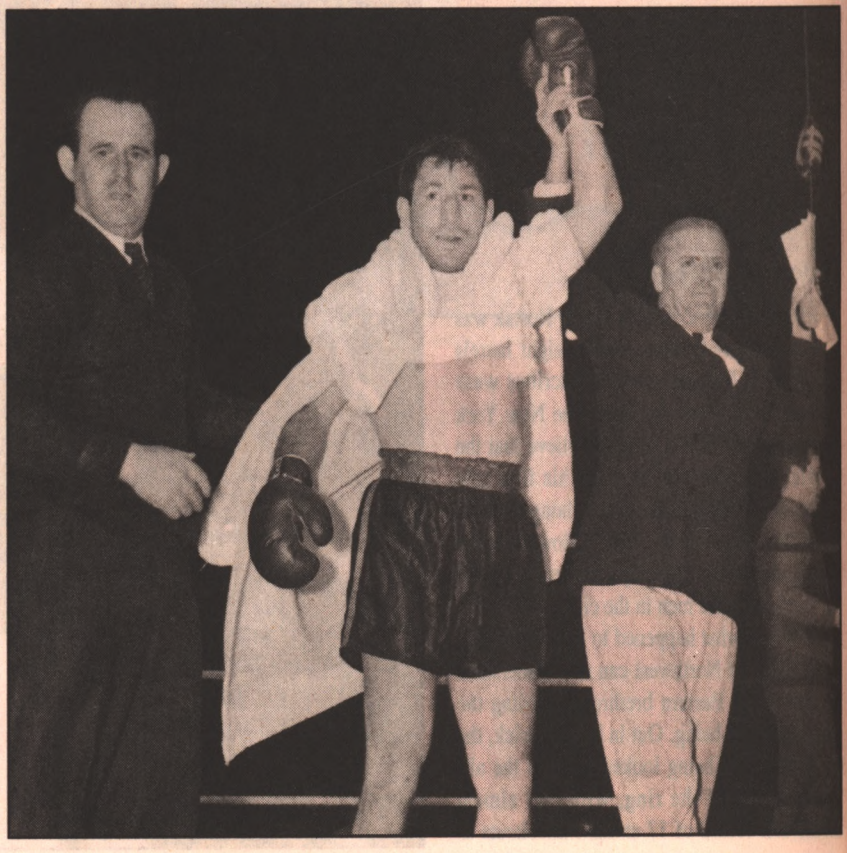
Coming off victories over Billy Conn and Izzy Jannazzo, Krieger saw his eight-bout winning streak halted by contender Glen Lee in May 1938. Lee won by 10-round decision at Madison Square Garden.

y John R. Heenan

When word came that young Al Hostak was defend his newly won middleweight laurels gainst Solly Krieger, fans and scribes were nite surprised, to say the least. The New York porting public found it hard to believe that the outhful sensation was to make his first title fense such a dangerous one. Although he had en beaten occasionally, fight followers in the ast recognized the Brooklyn battler as one of e most formidable men in the class.

In view of what happened to Hostak, boxing ns of the great Northwest can now understand e fears of the Eastern brethren regarding the ungster's well-being. Out in his bailiwick, the ender Slav was being looked upon as the all-me sensation of the ring, with that almost believable record of 17 straight knockouts as





Krieger was a formidable puncher, especially to the body, and when he hammered Ben Brown during their February 1939 battle in Miami, both fighters tumbled out of the ring (above). Krieger is acknowledged as the winner after stopping Brown in the ninth round (right). On the left is manager Hymie Caplin.

evidence of his super ability. But an hour after the fight with Solly, Hostak was not only minus his title claim, but was a well-battered hospital patient in the bargain.

Krieger, now claimant to the middleweight championship, is a real veteran of the ring. Solly admits to 27, but he probably is closer to 30. Like many other fighters of recent years, he matured late, and for the past three years has been one of the most formidable middleweights in the world.

His career stretches 10 years, back into 1928, when as a member of New York's Golden Gloves amateur boxing team, he made his first bid. In addition to his boxing, the Brooklynite was an all-around athletic star. He excelled in basketball, and played baseball and football with more than ordinary skill. During his amateur and early professional career, Krieger was known as a skilled defensive boxer, relying upon fancy bobbing and

eaving rather than punching power to gain his ictories. He first displayed his latent punching ower back in 1931, when he had Hans Mueller, rd-hitting German boxer, on the deck no less an 10 times in eight rounds.

***

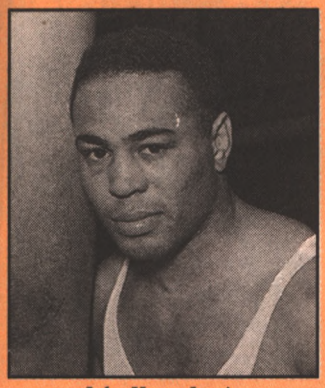
Back in his amateur days, he had been nown as Danny Auerbach, boxing master. As olly Krieger, his real name, he blossomed out a two-fisted slugger. A technical knockout at e hands of Vince Dundee back in 1931, plus nd trouble, stayed his progress for years, as he drifted along somewhere between outright brilliance and downright mediocrity.

Krieger did not really arrive as a top-flight performer until 1935, seven years after the beginning of his career, when he piled up a long string of knockouts over fair opposition. By this time the change in his boxing style had been complete. Gone were the safety-first tactics of his early days; he was now an extremely rugged, dynamite-fisted slugger who was one of the most feared men in the division. To a discerning boxing observer, however, there is still considerable guile and trickery to Krieger's apparently crude attack.

His features are practically unmarked for all his years in the ring, and his hard-hitting offense is much more scientific than it appears to be at first glance, as men who have boxed him all agree.

The year 1936 was a banner one for socking Solly. He lost two bouts—to Al Quaill and Oscar Rankin—but scored knockouts over Mickey Bottone, Young Terry, Anson Green, Joey Spiegel, Johnny Rossi, and Harry Balsamo, and beat Rankin, Roscoe Manning and Frank Battaglia, among others.

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1939*



John Henry Lewis

HEAVYWEIGHT
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Max Baer
2. Bob Pastor
3. Tony Galento
4. Lou Nova
5. Tommy Farr
6. Gunnar Barlund
7. Maxie Rosenbloom
8. Max Schmeling
9. Red Burman
10. Willie Reddish

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
World Champ: John Henry Lewis
1. Tiger Jack Fox
2. Melio Bettina
3. Al Gainer
4. Ron Richards
5. Adolph Heuser
6. Gus Lesnevich
7. Len Harvey
8. Ambrose Palmer
9. Jock McAvoy
10. Eddie Wenstob

MIDDLEWEIGHT
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Solly Krieger
2. Young Corbett
3. Fred Apostoli
4. Al Hostak
5. Walter Woods
6. Glen Lee
7. Ken Overlin
8. Atilio Sabatino
9. Fred Henneberry
10. Ralph DeJohn

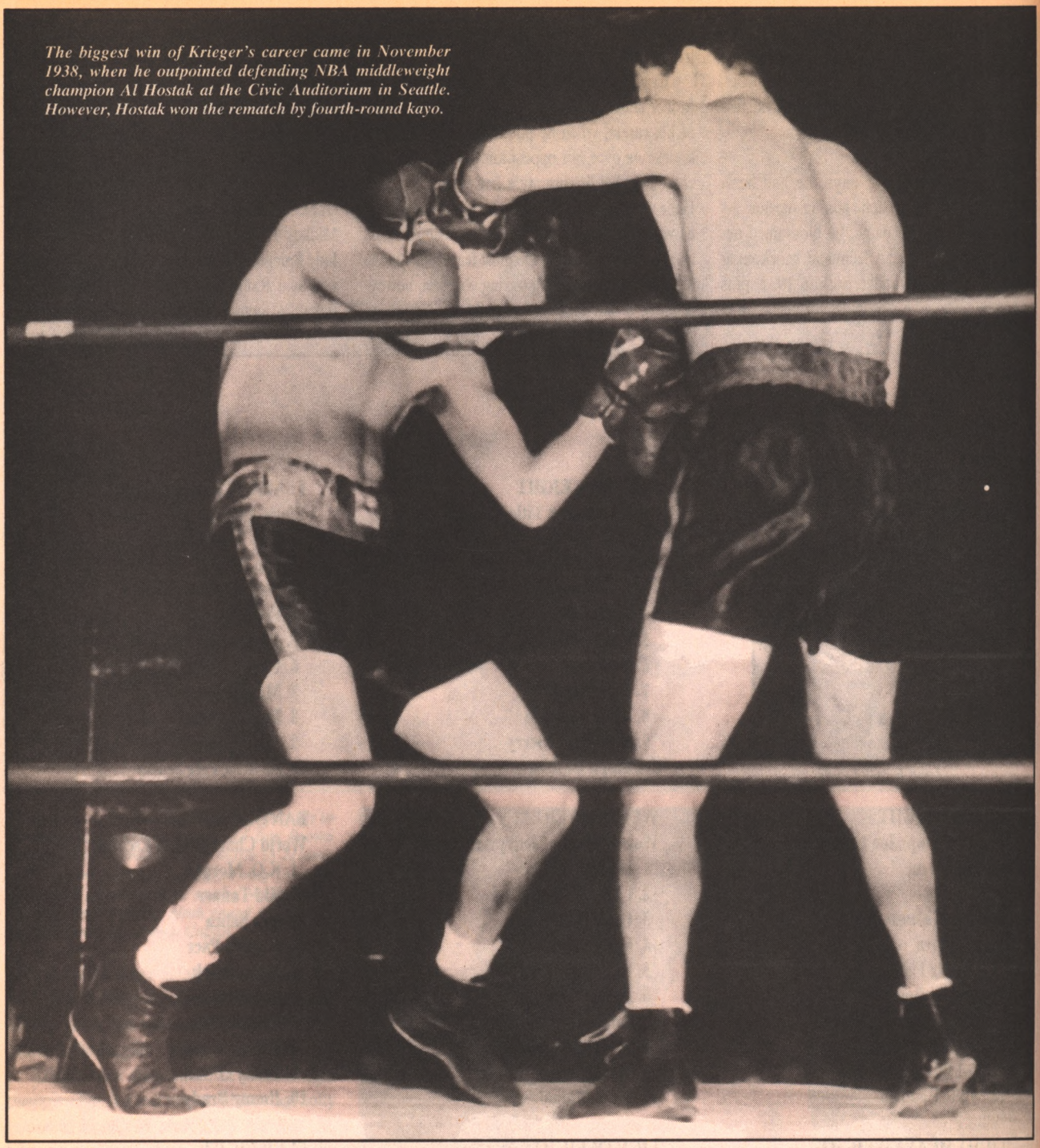
WELTERWEIGHT
World Champ: Henry Armstrong
1. Ceferino Garcia
2. Charley Burley
3. Ernie Roderick
4. Fritzie Zivic
5. Kid Frattini
6. Jimmy Leto
7. Sammy Luftspring
8. Saverio Turiello
9. Maxie Berger
10. Steve Mamakos

LIGHTWEIGHT
World Champ: Henry Armstrong
1. Lou Ambers
2. Pedro Montanez
3. Baby Arizmendi
4. Davey Day
5. Sammy Angott
6. Billy Beauhuld
7. Tommy Cross
8. Aldo Spoldi
9. Wesley Raney
10. Norment Quarles

FEATHERWEIGHT
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Joey Archibald
2. Leo Rodak
3. Dave Castilloux
4. Freddie Miller
5. Johnny Hutchinson
6. Chalky Wright
7. Mike Belloise
8. Dick Corbett
9. Tony Dupre
10. Al Reid, Pete Scalzo

BANTAMWEIGHT
World Champ: Sixto Escobar
1. K.O. Morgan
2. Kid Tanner
3. Lou Salica
4. Georgie Pace
5. Henry Hook
6. Aurel Toma
7. Pancho Villa
8. Johnny Gaudes
9. Teddy O'Neil
10. Jimmy Brady

FLYWEIGHT
World Champ: Peter Kane
1. Small Montana
2. Little Dado
3. Tiny Bostock
4. Tut Whalley
5. Pierre Louis
6. Pat McStravick
7. Jackie Jurich
8. Pierce Ellis
9. Paddy Ryan
10. Jackie Brown



The biggest win of Krieger's career came in November 1938, when he outpointed defending NBA middleweight champion Al Hostak at the Civic Auditorium in Seattle. However, Hostak won the rematch by fourth-round kayo.

Fred Apostoli proved something of a nemesis to Krieger in 1937, beating him twice, once by a kayo. Even these two setbacks failed to take the TNT out of his two-fisted wallops, as he bounced back to knock out Walter Woods and Eddie McGuire and beat Billy Conn. Teddy Yarosz also was awarded a much-criticized decision over him by outpointing him the same year.

***

If the record means anything, time has added to Krieger's power-packed punches, for he has stopped eight of his 11 rivals thus far this year. He started the new year right by toppling the highly touted George Black In Milwaukee in three rounds, and followed right through with four successive kayos, over Al Diamond, Rossi, Stanley Hasrato, and Izzy Jannazzo.

The New York Commission was at the point of designating the winner of an Apostoli-Krieger bout "defending middleweight champion" when plodding Glen Lee spoiled everything for Solly by outmauling him in Madison Square Garden last May 20 in 10 bruising rounds.

Freddie Steele had all he could do to turn back the Brooklynite in Seattle last June in 10 rounds. After this fight and 10 sessions of Krieger's bodypunching, Freddie is said to have remarked, "This is the toughest racket in the world."

Almost everyone else who has met Krieger expresses similar opinions. Even Apostoli, who has beaten him twice, has this to say: "Fighting that fellow is one of the toughest jobs I know of; he's liable to knock you dead with a punch at any time right up to the last second."

The reason for the respect in which Krieger is held by fellow members of his profession is his ability at bodypunching. Hostak, who had never encountered a really honest-to-goodness infighter, suffered a partial paralysis of his left side in the fight with the Brooklyn boy. Stocky and stubby-armed, Krieger, sometimes unable to reach the head of a taller foe, works his way into close quarters where his long years of experience, strength, and knowledge of all the tricks of his trade make him one of the most effective bodypunchers in the business.

***

Solly can also deal out plenty of destruction with a single punch when the occasion demands. The fast-stepping Woods had him completely befuddled for seven rounds, but in the eighth stanza, Krieger connected with just one catapulting right, and Popeye was through for the evening. He had knocked out three successive foes prior to his defeat of Hostak, and the Seattle slugger should have been forewarned he faced a stormy trip.

A tough hombre in action, surly and glum-looking in the ring, Krieger is a pleasant-mannered, intelligent fellow out of it. He has a settled, matured appearance in his street clothes, and looks, dresses, and acts the part of a Jewish small business owner or salesman. Somewhere Solly picked up the idea that the field of politics was also suited to his talents.

He entered himself in the lists as a candidate for New York City councilman from his Brooklyn district in last year's elections. The voters apparently thought Solly's place was in the prize ring and not the political ring, according to the election results.

THE RING finds itself in agreement with the New York Commission in withholding recognition of Krieger as world's middleweight champion until the winner of the impending bout between Young Corbett and Apostoli has been disposed of. This is meant as no disparagement of Krieger's ability, nor is the validity of his victory over Hostak questioned.

THE RING feels that until Apostoli, twice conqueror of Lee (who beat Solly), winner by a technical knockout over Marcel Thil, and kayo victor over then-champion Steele in an over-the-weight match, receives an opportunity to fight for the championship, no claimant to the title can possess a clear right to be considered champion.

Of course, this stand is contingent upon the ability of the Frisco lad to reverse the decision the veteran Young Corbett recently gained over him. They meet November 18, too late for this issue.

***

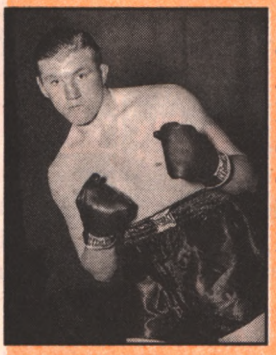
Apostoli has been thwarted in his attempts to engage in a championship match, although he is the standout performer of the weight. In the event that Corbett is able to repeat his win over his younger rival, the 35-year-old Fresnoan moves into the spot currently occupied by Apostoli, and Krieger's title claims cannot be considered sound until he meets the winner as ordered by the New York Commission.

Krieger, despite the two wins Apostoli holds over him, is apt to prove a most difficult proposition for either of the Californians. A bad cut caused his kayo loss to Apostoli, and practically all of the few defeats he has suffered have been by the narrowest of margins. Furthermore, title responsibilities often add much to a boxer's abilities.

Curiously, Krieger is the fourth Jewish boxer to hold a claim to the 160-pound crown. Al McCoy, Dave Rosenberg, and Ben Jeby were the other three. Solly is the fourth Brooklyn boy to become a title claimant, and the fourth fighter managed by Hymie Caplin to gain partial championship recognition. ■

THE RING, January 1939

The Cover: The state of California has produced its share of memorable heavyweights, including Jim Corbett, Jim Jeffries, and Max Baer. Will prospect Lou Nova be next in line? The standup boxer is moving toward a shot at champion Joe Louis.



Louis' Dance Card: Heavyweight champion Joe Louis and promoter Mike Jacobs are searching for potential title challengers. After "The Brown Bomber" defends against John Henry Lewis, he'll consider bouts against the likes of Tommy Farr (pictured), Max Baer, Lou Nova, and Bob Pastor.

Archibald Arrives: In a profile of Joey Archibald, writer Edward Van Every supports the Rhode Island featherweight's claim to the world title. In October 1938, Archibald won New York State recognition by defeating Mike Belloise. THE RING, however, continues to consider the world title vacant.

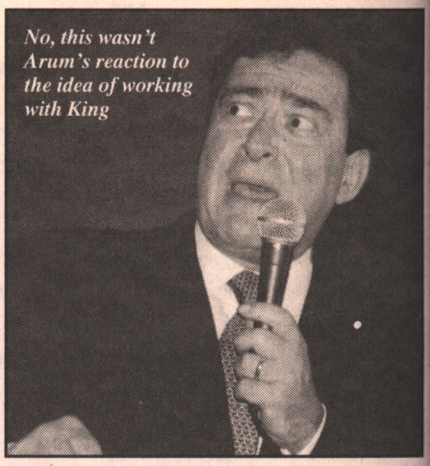
Oh, Canada: In a photo feature, THE RING examines some of the world-class fighters from Canada. Among the headliners are featherweight Dave Castilloux (pictured), lightweight/welterweight Maxie Berger, and welterweight Sammy Luftspring. All three are ranked in the top 10.

The Many Sides Of Ketchel: Famed writer Hype Igoe examines former middleweight champion Stanley Ketchel, who was one of the most intriguing, multidimensional fighters ever to climb through the ropes. Igoe recounts many of the anecdotes that contributed to the Ketchel legend.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

BOSOM BUDDIES



No, this wasn't Arum's reaction to the idea of working with King

Don King and Bob Arum, who have sued each other, repeatedly ripped each other in the press, and doggedly competed for boxing's top talent for more than 20 years, have proved they can do business when it suits them. (Remember Roberto Duran-Sugar Ray Leonard I?) In a live interview on CBS, the promoters discussed plans, as preliminary as they may be, to arrange a pair of superfights for 1996, Mike Tyson vs. George Foreman and Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Oscar De La Hoya.

The 46-year-old Foreman's last bout, a controversial victory over Axel Schulz, underlined his vulnerability. Nonetheless, Big George vs. Iron Mike would likely be a record-breaking attraction. And is there a hotter matchup in the lighter weights than The Golden Boy vs. J.C. Superstar?

"There's no guy in boxing, and I say this really with respect, that can make things happen, and has a way to make them happen, better than Don King," said Arum.

For Arum to pay King a compliment, he *must* be serious. But don't order your fight tickets just yet. Asked for a comment on the proposed King-Arum alliance, one high-level member of HBO's boxing team said, "We're not taking it very seriously."

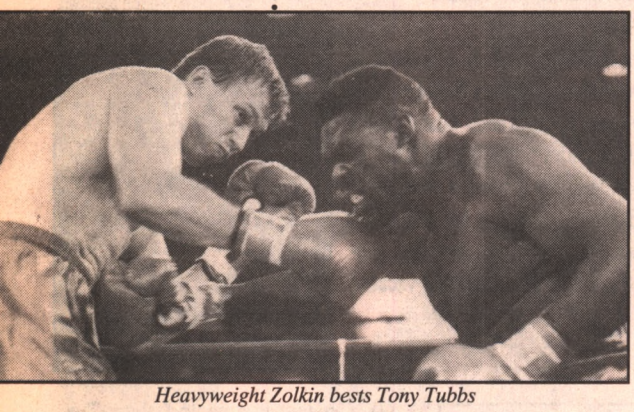


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Heavyweight Zolkin bests Tony Tubbs

LISTEN UP

On the **Bowe-Holyfield** undercard on November 4 in Las Vegas: WBC super bantamweight champion **Hector Acero-Sanchez'** rematch with **Daniel Zaragoza**, and a bout involving sensational Mexican junior featherweight **Marco Antonio Barrera** ... Look for IBF super middleweight champion **Roy Jones** to face **Buddy McGirt** at Madison Square Garden on January 12. Sounds like a horrible mismatch to us ... On November 25 in England, top-10 heavyweights **Alexandr Zolkin** and **Herbie Hide** will clash ... IBF featherweight champion **Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson**, whose September defense against **Wilfredo Vasquez** was canceled, will next defend against France's **Mehdi Labdouni**, then Colombia's dangerous **Ever Beleno** ... A showdown of unbeaten heavyweights is being planned for March, featuring **Shannon Briggs** vs. **David Tua**.

Las Vegas Hilton

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Mike Tyson	Buster Mathis Jr.	20-1	Another safe opponent for Tyson
Bruce Seldon	Tony Tucker	8-5	Not a bad fight, but I doubt it will happen
Terry Norris	Felix Trinidad	7-5	Great fight!
Terry Norris	Paul Vaden	5-2	Interesting unification; Vaden has a shot
Felix Trinidad	Larry Barnes	8-1	Barnes has beaten some good men, but not this time

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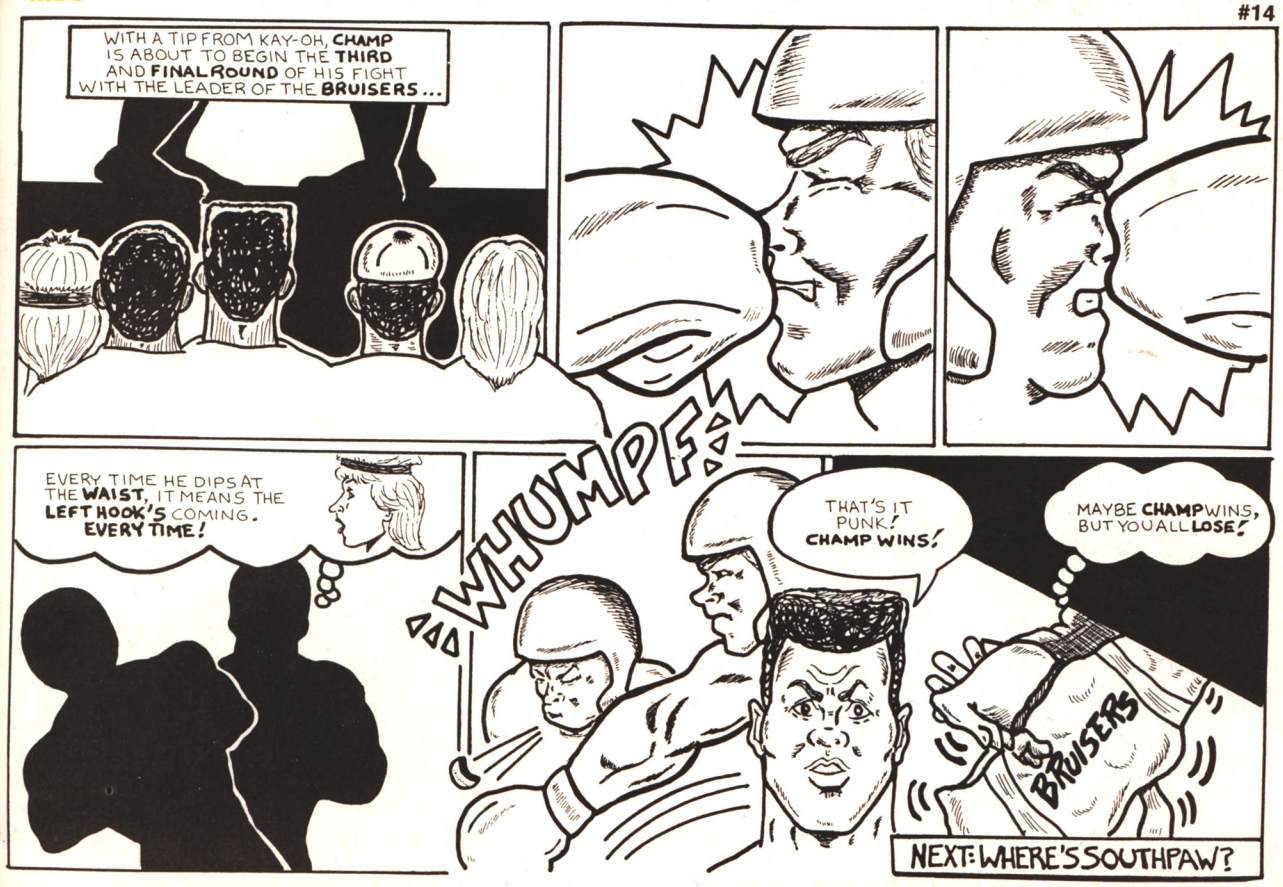

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Craig Peters & Ron Wilson

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